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£100,000 worth of prizes to be won
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MARRIED TO ANOREXIA

How can partners cope?



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By Arthur C. Clarke

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DRESS WARS

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Tories attack 'smokescreen for Cook'

Mandelson accused of fixing news

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE Government was accused last night of leaking details of a security investigation into Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong Governor, and playing politics with the Royal Yacht Britannia, to try to deflect attention from Robin Cook's marriage break-up.

Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, said yesterday that the Government had cynically manipulated the media. "This weekend we have seen them point the finger at the reputation of Chris Patten and play politics with the royal yacht for no better reason than to divert attention from a number of unfavourable stories and the loss of the Uxbridge by-election," he said.

"The operation is being directed from No 10 on behalf of the Prime Minister. His hands are not clean just because he is in Twickenham."

As Mr Patten spoke out for the first time last night, Downing Street confirmed that the police were not involved in the inquiry, which was described as a Foreign Office internal investigation.

Only 24 hours earlier, as details of the Foreign Secretary's affair with his Commons secretary became known, Labour Party spin doctors had briefed the BBC that if reporters asked Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, the right questions on Radio 4, he would confirm that an investigation was under way.

Jon Sopel, a BBC political



"Well, it's goodnight from me and it's goodnight from him"

correspondent, confirmed on the same radio programme that Labour spin doctors had tried to talk up the Patten story. "Labour officials were understandably anxious about how the [Cook marriage] break-up would play in the media," he said.

Mr Mandelson would give the right answer if he was asked the right question, he was told by the unnamed Labour spin doctor. "In other words, he would stand up the Sunday Times story."

The Times has learnt that the Foreign Office inquiry was ordered last month by Sir John Coles, the Permanent Secretary, with ministers. When the Foreign Office was approached by The Sunday Times on Saturday, officials declined to confirm the existence of the investigation and maintained the same stance

all weekend until the Mandelson radio interview.

Last night, however, Mr Mandelson stood by his decision to confirm the investigation. Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, will be given a report of the inquiry. Mr Mandelson said: "This is emphatically not a question of finding a scapegoat or of news management. The decision to investigate was taken by ministers last week because of the seriousness of the leak and its implications. Conveniently ignoring such evidence might have been good enough for the Tories, but it is not acceptable to us."

The disclosures about Mr Patten, who has been accused of passing classified documents to Jonathan Dimbleby, the author and broadcaster, came only 48 hours after the Uxbridge by-election setback for Labour. They were published on the same day that Tony Blair ordered an investigation into the suicide note of a Labour MP which blamed senior colleagues for a whispering campaign.

"We do not comment on sensitive security matters — ever," one senior Foreign Office source said last night. Mr Patten, speaking to the Reuters news agency at his home in the South of France last night, said: "Allegations made about the book are without foundation. I stand on my record. I left Hong Kong in extremely good condition."

In what the Tories claim was a second diversionary tactic by the Government, Mr

Continued on page 2, col 4



William Hague takes the plunge with personalised headgear — with him are Sebastian Coe and David Harris

Fresh look for Hague

WILLIAM HAGUE's mission to woo young voters prompted him to appear at a Cornish theme park yesterday sporting a personalised baseball cap (Polly Newton writes).

The Tory leader, who was beginning a series of regional tours, went tie-less and wore a purple waterproof jacket for the visit to Flambards, near Helston on the Lizard. His cap bore the word "Hague" on the front and the Tories' latest

slogan, "A fresh future", on the back. Identical ones were worn by Sebastian Coe, former MP for Falmouth and Camborne and now on the staff of Mr Hague's private office, and David Harris, former MP for St Ives.

Mr Harris's cap did not stay the course, however, and was blown from his head as the three men took a soaking on a water slide.

The Hague hats were com-

missioned through Conservative Central Office and several were handed out yesterday to members of the public in Cornwall. But there are said to be no plans for a "tour T-shirt".

The image consultant Mary Spillane, head of the Colour Me Beautiful company, was unimpressed by Mr Hague's choice, though she praised the decision to dress down and "look a little more with-it".



Back to the future: the Hague message

Pilot and crew who saved 63 keep feet on ground

By Harvey Elliott and Paul Wilkinson

THE captain and crew of an airliner which blocked much of Manchester's main runway after it crash-landed were "too shaken" yesterday to speak publicly of the calm professionalism that saved the lives of 63 passengers.

Captain John Jones, 40, spent hours with air accident investigators from the Department of Transport as they attempted to discover why the port-side landing gear of the British Aerospace Advanced Turbo-Prop plane failed to lock shut as the aircraft took off for Knock, in Eire, on Sunday night.

Early indications are that mechanical failure jammed the wheel against its housing.

Throughout the three-hour drama as the plane circled to use up fuel, the passengers — many of them on a pilgrimage to one of Ireland's most revered shrines — prayed and held hands as the crew rehearsed emergency drills.

Yesterday, although executives of British Regional Airlines, which owned the plane, tried to persuade the crew to speak, they refused. Paul Kuiper, the co-pilot, would only do so once the captain — who, he told investigators, had shown superb skill and judgment throughout — agreed to.

Mike Bathgate, the commercial director of BRA, said: "He was obviously shaken up by it all, but seemed very calm. He talked to the passengers after the landing to make sure everyone was all right, and then once he knew no one was seriously injured he went off for some sleep. He does not regard himself as a hero; he just says it was a team effort and he is reluctant to take all the credit."

Captain Jones is married, and lives near Glasgow.

Death-crash pilot, page 3

Silver for Briton in heptathlon

Debbie Lewis won Britain's first medal at the world athletics championships in Athens when she took silver, behind Sabine Braun, of Germany, in the heptathlon.

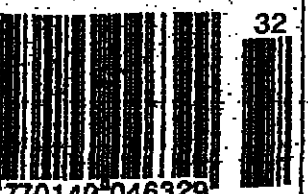
Lewis lay second after the long jump but in the javelin could not close the gap on Braun to have a chance of gold in the 800 metres, the final event. Page 44

Death at 122

Jeanne Calment, the world's oldest person, died in Arles, aged 122. Her life spanned the rule of 20 French Presidents. Page 11

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Heart attacks and traffic pollution linked in study

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

THOUSANDS of heart attacks may be caused by traffic pollution, according to a seven-year survey of cardiac patients.

One of the most comprehensive studies made of the subject found a clear link between air pollution and one in 50 heart attack patients treated in London hospitals. This was equivalent to 6,000 cases in Britain each year, most of them due to preventable exhaust fumes.

The doctors, led by Jan Polnicki from the Department of Public Health Sciences at St George's Hospital Medical School, London, based their findings on the 373,556 admissions to London hospitals for circulatory diseases between 1987 and 1994.

These were compared against daily measurements throughout this period for ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sul-

phur dioxide, carbon monoxide and black smoke. Other factors such as temperature, humidity, day of the week and the 1989 influenza epidemic were all taken into account.

They found that although an average of 145 cases were admitted each day there was a marked increase on the days after a surge in the pollution counts for everything except ozone. All the other pollutants were strongly linked with an increase in heart attacks. Significant, although less consistent, associations were also found between black smoke and angina and between nitrogen dioxide and heart rhythm disturbances.

Carbon monoxide was a particular cause for concern because this gas compromises the way in which oxygen is circulated round the body. This could put an extra strain on anyone with an already

susceptible heart during any form of exertion. This meant that people pushing power mowers and breathing the exhaust from them were at special risk.

The report in *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* says that the evidence from the study shows links between vehicle emissions and circulatory diseases are "biologically plausible".

Further work is now needed to investigate the relationship between air pollution and heart attacks, it says.

Belinda Linden, cardiac nursing adviser at the British Heart Foundation, said: "This is an interesting study but needs to be treated with a certain amount of caution. Nobody would deny the link between pollution and lung disorders. When it comes to coronary heart disease it's more difficult."

Lottery's public face steps down

By Jon Ashworth

DAVID RIGG, one of the founding directors of Camelot, the National Lottery operator, resigned yesterday in a surprise move that came just weeks after the latest damaging outcry over "fat-cat" pay.

Mr Rigg, Camelot's director of communications, will step down in October, taking with him a long-term incentive bonus of £80,000. The payment is the second instalment under a controversial scheme that plunged the lottery into crisis in May, provoking a showdown with Chris Smith, the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, and very nearly forcing the resignation of the Camelot board.

Mr Rigg, 49, who was paid £333,000 last year, denied yesterday that his departure posed a threat to the lottery, adding that he believed now to be the logical time for him to step down.

"I'm project-driven," he

said. "I always have been, and it's the way I'm made, and that's what keeps me getting up in the morning. I need challenges."

He said his departure was not connected with doubts surrounding Camelot's licence, which comes up for renewal in September 2001, and Camelot sources said he had been considering his future for the past two years.

Mr Rigg has yet to secure another job, although he has received approaches over consultancy roles and in-house public relations posts. A former long-serving director with De La Rue, the securities and banknote printer, he was assigned to the lottery project seven years ago, becoming the public face of Camelot. It is estimated that he has given more than 1,000 television interviews.

Director rides out, page 23

Commons cuts out barber in favour of hairdresser

By Polly Newton and Robin Young

HAIRCUTS from Hampstead — with prices to match — are coming to the Commons. The contract to replace the barber who has given MPs short back and sides for the past 27 years has been awarded to a unisex hairdressing salon, which will style, shape and even highlight the honourable members' crowning glory.

Tony and Penny Bergman, who have run John Simon in Hampstead for 26 years, will take over the shop in October when MPs return after the summer recess. They were selected from a short list after 48 applicants responded to newspaper advertisements.

The decision to turn the traditional House of Commons barber's shop into a unisex salon caused controversy earlier this year. Stephen Silver, 58, had run the shop for 27 years and was popular with MPs who wanted a quick, cheap and fuss-free haircut. He charged £4.25 for a dry cut and £3 for a shave.

The price of a dry cut under John Simon management is expected to be in the region of £7.95, while women who want a cut and blow dry will pay about £24. Mrs Bergman said yesterday: "We feel it's a great challenge and a prestigious and honourable position to be given."

The haircut revolution in Westminster may not be complete. The Hampstead salon also offers customers beauty treatments, reflexology and aromatherapy.

Mrs Bergman said she hoped the Commons would soon offer more than basic haircuts but conceded: "We have to go along with what MPs want."

Mrs Bergman said plans were already afoot to satisfy traditionalist male MPs who did not want a trim in front of female colleagues. She said that if a male customer insisted, staff would try to ensure that no women were booked in at the same time.

Four assessors, including a hairdressing adviser and a financial expert, visited each of the salons on the short list before the final decision was taken by the Sergeant at Arms. A source said: "They took into account a number of factors, including the range of services offered and the track record of the salons."

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MP's relatives will not disclose suicide note

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE family of Gordon McMaster, the Labour MP for Paisley South who was found dead in his car a week ago, said yesterday that they did not intend to publish the two-page suicide note in which he criticised two party figures. Mr McMaster is believed to have requested that the computer-printed letter be distributed to journalists.

A woman speaking on behalf of William and Alison McMaster said that they had no intention of publishing their son's letter and had no comment to make concerning its contents.

The letter, a copy of which has been passed to the Procurator Fiscal's office in Paisley along with a police report, is the subject of an inquiry by Nick Brown, the Labour Chief Whip. He was asked by Tony Blair at the weekend to investigate the circumstances of Mr McMaster's death.

The letter contains information about rumours about Mr McMaster that had allegedly circulated in the months before his death. Mr McMaster's closest political ally, Irene Adams, MP for Paisley North, said his political enemies had spread untrue rumours suggesting he was HIV-positive. There were also rumours that the 37-year-old unmarried MP was homosexual.

No official decision has been made by the Fiscal's office as to whether there will be a fatal



Gordon McMaster was found dead in his car

accident inquiry into Mr McMaster's death. His family is likely to be consulted.

Scotland has no system of inquests: fatal accident inquiries are the nearest equivalent. The local Procurator Fiscal has a duty to call one if someone dies in the course of employment or in custody but otherwise the decision on whether or not to hold a fatal accident inquiry is at his discretion and is usually made on public interest grounds.

Fatal accident inquiries are rare for incidents where there is no public policy issue. They are more wide-ranging than inquests. They are usually conducted by the local Sheriff and he has the power to call any witnesses he believes relevant to his inquiry. His recommendations

following the inquiry are binding.

The Fiscal also has the power to order police to investigate a particular aspect of the death and he can order other inquiries, such as medical reports.

Mr McMaster, who had been suffering from depression and was being treated for ME, is said to name the Labour MP for West Renfrewshire, Tommy Graham, and the Labour peer Lord Dixon in his letter. Both men have denied spreading rumours or bearing any ill-will towards Mr McMaster.

Friends of the dead MP yesterday said that they felt guilty that they had been unable to save him. The Wigan MP, Roger Stott, said that a previous suicide bid by Mr McMaster had been hushed up. "He was in a very, very bad way towards the end," Mr Stott said. "To his friends in Annie's Bar, this was a disaster waiting to happen. I feel that I should have done more because I knew he was in such a bad state. I think we really ought to have tried harder."

Eric Clarke, MP for Midlothian, another friend of Mr McMaster, said: "I feel a bit guilty about not being close enough to him to maybe have convinced him it wasn't a hopeless situation."

Leading article, page 17

Aches and illusions can be symptoms of depression

GORDON McMASTER had been suffering from depression for some time before his suicide. The task which the Labour Whips have set themselves — to discover the truth, if any, of his allegations — will be difficult.

Paranoid delusions occur in one in six depressed patients. These misconceptions often have their origins in a true incident which later becomes distorted and exaggerated in the patient's mind so that the final belief bears no relation to the original incident. As the condition deteriorates, so do they frequently find other evidence, acceptable only to themselves, which confirms their initial delusion, and which they recount to others.

The general belief that paranoia is only a symptom of the schizophrenic illnesses



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

is mistaken and dangerous. Paranoid delusions in depressed patients often take the form of the illusion that the patient is being persecuted by colleagues and erstwhile friends.

It is not denied that Mr McMaster was a sensitive man who was depressed. His tragic mistake may have been to attribute his underlying health problems to organo-phosphate poisoning acquired when he was a gardener. There has been a tendency to attribute any ill-

defined set of symptoms occurring in agriculturalists to this chemical, and many a true diagnosis has been missed.

If Mr McMaster had realised that physical symptoms such as headaches, muscular weakness, heavy legs, digestive problems, nausea, sore throats and breathlessness are also symptoms of depressive illnesses, as well as chronic fatigue syndrome, he could have had treatment which may have dispelled the depression and anxieties.



Gaynor Regan, 41, the woman for whom Robin Cook has left his wife

Mandelson 'fixed news'

Continued from page 1
Mandelson gave a strong signal that *Britannia* would be saved through a privately funded refit.

Downing Street echoed yesterday the Ministry of Defence's view that it was just one option among several and no decision had been taken. However, the announcements about the yacht and Mr Patten dominated the headlines.

Mr Blair's Government last week suffered one of its worst weeks since the election. Last Wednesday Labour chiefs suspended the local party in Doncaster amid allegations of council corruption. The row

over the shareholdings of Lord Simon, the Trade Minister, has refused to die. On Thursday, Labour failed to win the Uxbridge by-election.

Party strategists feared that the news of the break-up of Mr Cook's 28-year marriage could finally take the gloss off the celebrations of the first 100 days. Sir Brian, in an interview yesterday on Radio 4's *The World at One*, said of the Patten case: "It is a Foreign Office inquiry. Who is the Foreign Secretary? Robin Cook. Has Robin Cook been in the news this weekend. Of course he has. They are trying to divert attention from stories

they do not want people to read."

"There is media manipulation going on, precisely to deflect attention from the Uxbridge by-election defeat, from the difficulties in the private lives of ministers, from the problems around Lord Simon and the suspension of the Labour Party in Doncaster."

Mrs Cook, 50, issued a brief statement yesterday. She said: "Whatever my husband's private life may have been, he has always been a very good member of Parliament and is a very good Foreign Secretary. These are the only matters of concern to the public."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamilton defence hearing to be on TV

Neil Hamilton will make a final attempt to clear his name when he appears before the Commons committee of MPs investigating the cash for questions affair. The hearing will be televised.

The former Trade Minister's role in the controversy, which cost four ministers their jobs, will be examined today at a private meeting of the Standards and Privileges Committee. Mr Hamilton wrote yesterday to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner, to accept an invitation to go before the committee to give his version of events, at a date yet to be decided. He will have to give evidence on oath.

Members of the committee have been recalled during the parliamentary recess to deliver their verdict on the role of Mr Hamilton, judged by Sir Gordon to have accepted at least £25,000 from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, in return for tabling Commons questions.

Strikers halt ferries

Islanders on Arran and Cumbrae, off the southwest coast of Scotland, were cut off from the mainland indefinitely yesterday when 120 Clyde ferryman went on strike over the length of their working week. Negotiations were continuing last night. The organisers of the royal visit to Arran on August 9 hope the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will still visit the island during their annual Scottish tour. Transport and police vehicles for their visit were taken across to Arran on the ferry before the strike.

'Turn out' call to Scots

A £200,000 television and newspaper advertising campaign was launched by the Government yesterday aimed at securing a high turnout in the Scottish devolution referendum on September 11. A low turnout — putting the "don't know" and "don't care" in a majority — would be a "tragedy", Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said. The initiative follows the weekend decision by Scottish nationalists meeting in Perth to support the mainstream "yes" campaign, as well as mounting their own.

Pilot blamed for crash

Pilot error was to blame for the crash of an RAF Jaguar during training in Alaska last year, an official military inquiry has concluded. The pilot was so distracted by opposing aircraft that he failed to realise he was too close to the ground. He cut a 450ft swath through a wooded ridge, taking large amounts of debris into the engines, before ejecting safely. The inquiry into the crash, in July last year, concluded that the pilot allowed himself to be distracted by other aircraft while flying at just 100ft above the ground.

Sex abuser flees to US

A male nanny who sexually abused two boys in his care was at the centre of an international police hunt after fleeing Britain to avoid a prison sentence. Garry Cameron, 30, failed to appear at Lincoln Crown Court for sentencing and is believed to be in America. Judge Richard Jenkins jailed Cameron for 28 months in his absence and issued a warrant for his arrest. Lincolnshire police officers are now liaising with other forces in an attempt to locate him, a police spokesman said.

Murder case release

Reginald Dudley, jailed for a double murder in 1977, is to be released from prison after 22 years of protesting his innocence. Dudley, 72, who was convicted with Robert Maynard of the killings of the London underworld figures William Moseley and Michael Cornwall, is to be let out of Ford Prison, Sussex, on licence on Wednesday. The cases of Dudley and Maynard, who remains in jail, are being looked at by the Criminal Cases Review Commission, which is considering if they should go to the appeal court.

Brixton gun amnesty

An amnesty for illegal firearms is being planned for Brixton by the Home Office and Scotland Yard to halt the rise of gun violence. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, have discussed the amnesty in detail. It will be the first organised in Britain for a single area rather than a national or city-wide appeal. The Home Office said that no decision had yet been taken but the amnesty was being actively considered and could start in the autumn.

Teletubbies top toy lists

Teletubbies were tipped to storm the Christmas shopping market yesterday after the BBC announced the launch of a range of merchandise with sales expected to exceed £5 million by December. Teletubby soft toys, toothbrushes, pyjamas and videos will be available for the Christmas rush. Retailers expect demand for the four fat characters, who burble in baby-speak and have televisions in their stomachs and aerials on their heads, to equal that of Buzz Lightyear and Tracy Island.

Caravan sales going up

Caravan convoys are longer than ever this year, "It looks at last as if the leisure caravan industry has turned the corner. Caravanning has never been more popular," said Tony Hailey, the chairman of the Tourer Marketing Bureau. From a high point of 36,500 in 1989, sales dropped to 20,400 last year. With prices ranging between £7,000 and £20,000 a 12 per cent rise in sales is forecast this year to 22,500, bringing the total number of caravans on the roads to more than half a million.

Redwood accuses Beckett on shares

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

MARGARET BECKETT has been accused by the Tories of misleading the Commons over the shareholdings of Lord Simon of Highbury, the Trade Minister.

It has emerged that Mrs Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, was mistaken when she told Parliament last month that all the minister's non-BP shares were held in a blind trust. Administration delayed transfer of the former BP chairman's £4,000 shares in Grand Metropolitan.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, who has led the Tory cam-

Residents delay hospital savings

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

A HEALTH authority's attempt to save money by temporarily closing two cottage hospitals was blocked in the High Court yesterday. The ruling means that authorities will have to find time to consult with the public before implementing any plans to make savings by closures.

The consultation process, which the court ruled must take place, will inevitably last for several weeks and make it impossible to make savings in time for winter unless they start very soon. The test case was brought against a decision taken on June 4 by North

Police reverse black actor ban

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE Home Office last night vetoed police plans to abandon the use of black actors in promotion tests.

Officials acted after the Police Promotions Examinations Board decided to drop black actors who were used in tests last year for constables hoping to become sergeants. The board decided to reset the examinations using only white actors.

The tests were meant to assess officers' general policing ability, not their handling of race-sensitive situations. But a psychologist's report showed that candidates failed

because they misunderstood and thought the scenarios were about race relations.

The Home Office said yesterday: "It was a misguided attempt to standardise the examinations. Steps are being taken to reverse the decision and reinstate the ethnic minority role-players." The black actors were introduced originally at the suggestion of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Superintendent Glenn Hutton, head of the Police Promotions Examinations Unit, said there had been a "hiccup" in its procedures.

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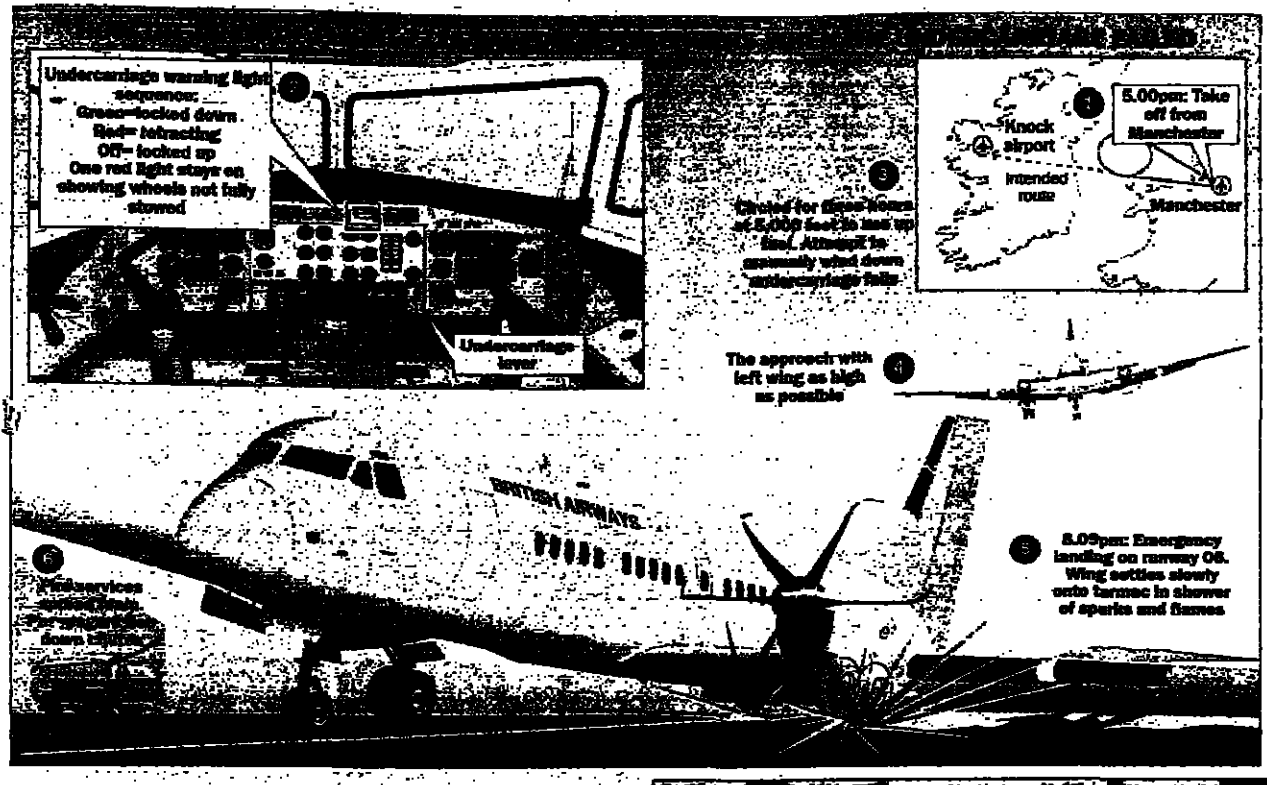
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Nothing to do but hope and pray



It was calm for the first hour but then the tension got to people. They were just crying and shaking



The aircraft approaching the runway, top, scraping along the tarmac seconds later, left, before coming to a halt as the fire brigade rush to deal with the threat of an explosion. The firefighters smothered the sparking fuselage with blankets of foam and the crew and passengers escaped down the emergency chute with only two minor injuries reported

Air passengers spent three hours in fear for their lives

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE 63 passengers on the flight to Ireland, many of them pilgrims making for one of the country's most popular religious sites, could do little more than say the rosary and pray during three hours of steadily mounting tension.

They had been told by the calm voice of Captain John Jones that there was a problem with the undercarriage and that they would be spending some time circling the Irish sea to burn off fuel before returning to Manchester for an emergency landing.

But when the co-pilot, Paul Kuiper, walked into the cabin, pulled back a section of carpet, unscrewed a small panel and reached into the bowels of the plane, the seriousness of their position began to sink in.

Captain Jones, a 40-year-old senior pilot with British Regional Airlines had expected a routine 45-minute flight from Manchester to Knock. The eight-year-old turbo-prop aircraft had completed a full check in May and was thought to be in the best condition.

Shortly before 5pm on Sunday evening Captain Jones gently lifted the nose of his



and his colleagues had to calm the passengers.

Clearance to land after burning off fuel was granted by air traffic control. Like many of its kind, the British Aerospace ATP turbo-prop does not have a fuel dumping system. To enable a safe landing, the pilots had to burn off almost all the fuel.

For hour after hour the aircraft circled while Captain Jones rehearsed in his mind the procedures he had learnt in a flight simulator. In the cabin, the passengers were beginning to feel the tension.

"It had all been calm for the first hour," one said. "But then the tension got to people. They were sitting at the back just crying and shaking."

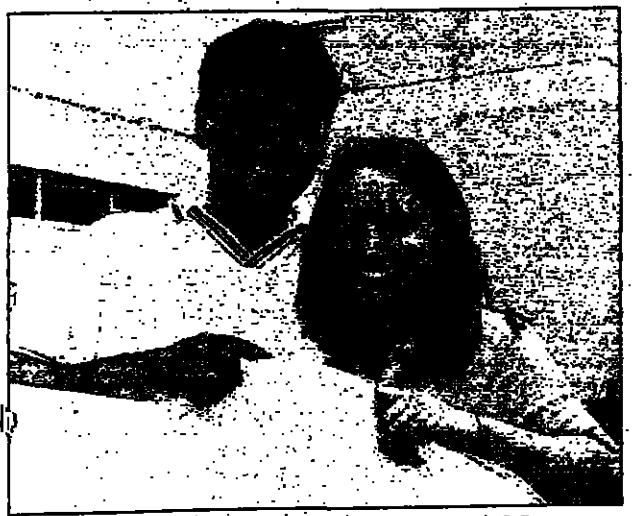
A man led some in prayer and repeated Hail Marys. Mary Ferrick, 84, sprinkled holy water over her grandson.

As the fire brigade stood by the nose of the aircraft with runway 06. At just under 90 miles an hour the nose wheel and the locked-down right-hand wheel touched the tarmac almost simultaneously.

One wing was kept as high as possible until it was no longer possible to keep it from striking the ground. Then he slammed over the rudder to counteract the slewing effect on the aircraft, which by now was surrounded in sparks.

In an almost perfect straight line the aircraft came to a halt on the side of the runway to be surrounded by fire engines spraying foam on the flames. The passengers were ordered to jump on to the slides. Among them were a young couple on their way to their wedding in County Mayo. When the time came all the bride-to-be could think of was her wedding dress in the rack above her head.

There were only two people injured and they had just minor cuts and bruises.



David Bailey with Judith Padden and her bridal gown

My narrow escape in doomed light aircraft

THE pilot of the twin-engined Cessna which crashed at the weekend killing three people appeared to have problems manoeuvring the aircraft on a flight shortly before the fatal trip.

David Wall, the pilot, and his wife, Christine, who both died in the crash in Hereford and Worcester, had acquired the 30-year-old Cessna only about two weeks ago and offered my companion and I a flight from Elstree in Hertfordshire, where the aircraft was based.

Mr Wall previously owned a smaller twin-engined Grumman Cougar. He made a forced landing on a golf course last year. "Don't believe the stories you hear about me running out of fuel," he said before we set off.

The ten-minute flight to North Weald in Essex was uneventful, although we made a relatively heavy landing. It was on our return to Elstree that Mr Wall, who had 3,000 hours flying experience but just seven hours on the Cessna, appeared tense. The alarm which warns of an imminent stall started sound-

Pilot Eve-Ann Prentice reports on the unease she felt on an earlier flight with couple killed in crash

ing for long periods. Two other acquaintances of the Walls—who leave five sons—were also aboard the seven-seater aircraft and all of us on the flight were flying students or experienced pilots. All of us, including Mrs Wall, who was also qualified to fly the Cessna 421, were uneasy that the alarm continued as we prepared to land.

Mr Wall, a structural engineer who also owned a small light aviation company, was forced to abandon his first attempt at landing when it became clear that his approach speed and position would not let the aeroplane touch down at the correct

position on the runway. We began a low-level circuit to try again. The alarm sounded yet again and I could see the flight instruments. The airspeed indicator showed we were at about 65-70 knots after climbing back into the circuit. The stalling speed is 66 knots.

Mr Wall needed to land the Cessna right at the end of the runway to leave enough distance to brake. We made an extremely heavy landing and my companion, a pilot of 16 years' experience, said he thought we were about to run off the runway.

The aircraft made one more flight after my trip, to Ostend, before setting off on its final journey. The Cessna crashed just a mile away from Shobdon airfield in Hereford and Worcester. Of the two passengers with them, one man was killed and a 20-year-old man is critically ill in hospital. Seconds before the crash, witnesses reported that the aircraft was travelling slowly and that the engines were spluttering. The weather had deteriorated and Mr Wall is believed to have flown into a rain shower.

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Barrister's ex-wife drove into cottage

Victims say community service sentence is a joke, reports Tim Jones

THE former wife of a barrister who drove off after crashing her Land Rover through the wall of a cottage, pinning the owner underneath, was sentenced yesterday to 150 hours community service and told to seek help by the judge.

The victim's husband, Peter Trewren, said after the sentence that Heather Edyevean-Driscoll had been treated leniently because of her former husband's position. He described the punishment as "a joke".

James Puzey, for the prosecution, told Coventry Crown Court that on the night in question last December, Edyevean-Driscoll, 49, had been followed by a taxi driver who saw her weaving across the road between Rugby and Dunchurch in Warwickshire. She had demolished a bollard and crashed into the wall of a cottage. With the airbag of the Land Rover partly inflated, she had reversed in a semi-circle and smashed through the wall of the adjoining cottage, causing £15,000 damage.

Jennifer Trewren, who had been looking out of the win-

dow, was knocked to the floor. When she came to, she realised she was covered in rubble and trapped beneath the rear wheels of the vehicle, which was 7ft into her lounge. She spent two nights in hospital with a fractured heel bone, deep cuts and bruising.

Mr Puzey said Edyevean-Driscoll drove out of the lounge and weaved across roads marked with double white lines as she made her way to her home in the village of Kites Hardwick. Her vehicle, which was extensively damaged, was driven without lights except for the hazard warning lights.

When police called at her home, she was abusive and refused to take a breath test. She told officers: "Can't do that, I'm in my own house." Later, the court was told, after she had been taken to Rugby police station, she was abusive and insulting to officers.

Edyevean-Driscoll pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and failing to stop after an accident. She was sentenced to 150 hours and 120 hours community service, to run concurrently. She was also



Jennifer Trewren: spent two nights in hospital

banned from driving for three years and ordered to pay £500 costs. She pleaded not guilty to failing to provide a specimen and that charge will be dealt with later. The court was told that she had two previous convictions, for drink-driving and for speeding.

James Burbridge, for Edyevean-Driscoll, said: "The court

will recognise this is a serious case, as Mrs Driscoll does, but it is also a sad case. This defendant is desperately sorry and saddened at the injury and damage she caused to the Trewren family."

He went on: "The night before had not been a happy night. Plans made had gone awry and there was clearly conflict in the family home. This lady has had a traumatic recent life in family terms. She frankly had a blind panic." Judge Brian Farrer, QC, told Edyevean-Driscoll: "Had you been over the prescribed limit or had Jennifer Trewren tragically been killed, then no power in the land could have saved you from serving an immediate custodial sentence. Meritfully for you, nobody was killed, but I have to remind you that in this case that was more a case of good fortune than anything else. I cannot pretend it wasn't a case of dangerous driving. You made it worse by then reversing and creating damage to Mrs Trewren's home and her."

"I am satisfied you were under considerable strain and I am satisfied that strain led you to panic and behave in a way that would normally be abhorrent to you. You need help and I urge you to go and get it."

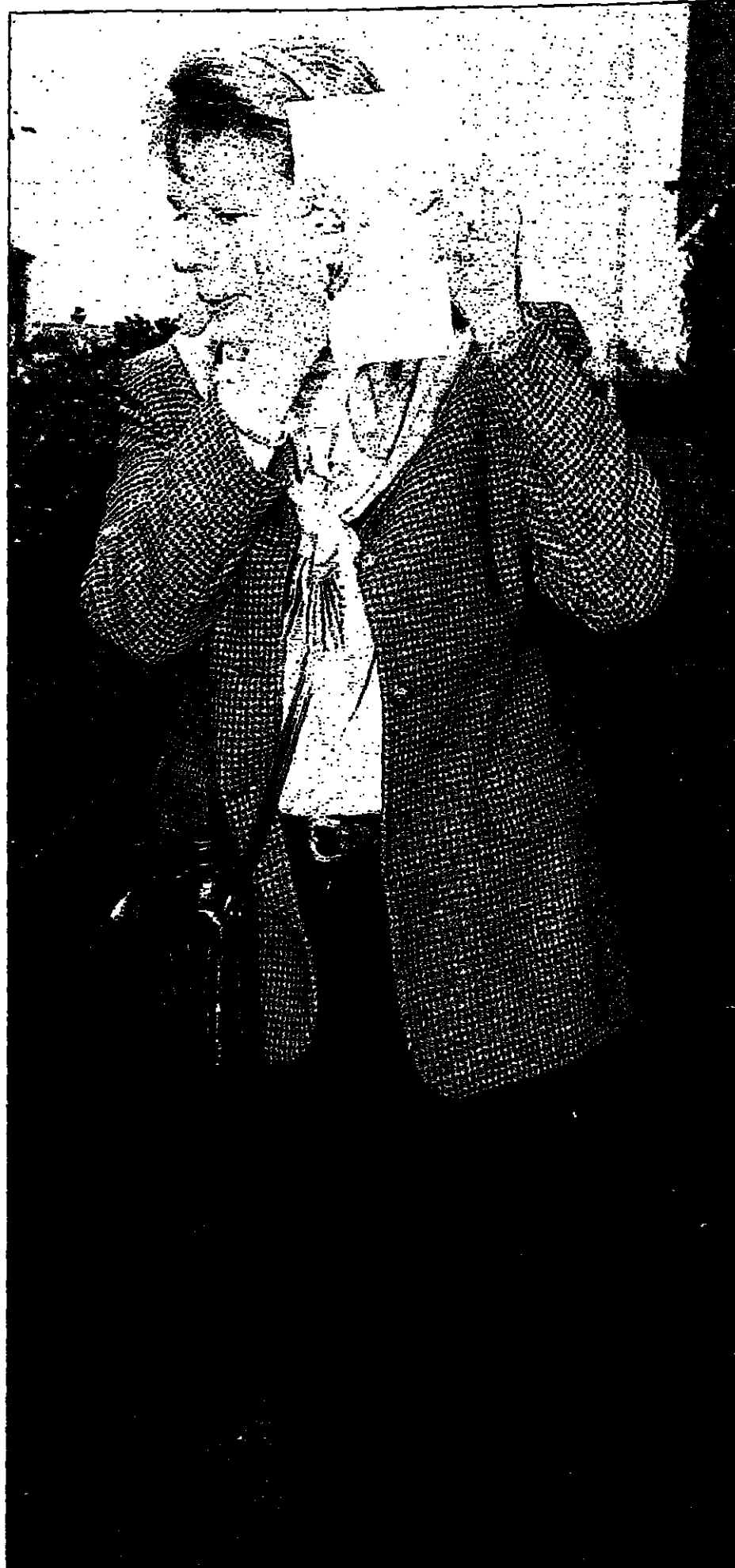
There was an angry confrontation as Edyevean-Driscoll was led away to a consulting room, with Mr and Mrs Trewren accusing her of showing no remorse. Mrs Trewren, 52, said: "I still need to have an operation on my foot but she has shown no remorse at all. She left a trail of destruction but she left court smiling. She shouldn't be allowed to drive again."

Last night Edyevean-Driscoll, who divorced her husband, Michael, a QC, in 1986, said: "I really do hope my life can now get back to normal. I'm a proper driver, I don't hit houses for a hobby. I've got better things to do than go waltzing into people's front rooms."

The mother of four said the crash was the aftermath of stress brought about by her former husband telling her that he would not be spending Christmas with the family.



Peter Trewren and the hole in his cottage caused by the reversing Land Rover



Heather Edyevean-Driscoll still faces a charge of failing to provide a specimen

NEWS IN BRIEF

Road tax cheats face the clamp

The Government has recruited wheelclamps for a campaign against road-tax evaders. From August 18 vehicles without tax discs will be clamped and owners will have to pay £68 and show a valid tax disc to remove the clamp.

Vehicles will be impounded if not claimed in 24 hours and the release fee will rise. If vehicles are unclaimed after five weeks, they will be crushed or sold at auction. In a London pilot scheme, nearly 60 per cent of vehicles clamped were crushed or auctioned.

Lost garden

A couple who spent £10,000 creating a garden have been told to turn it back into farmland by their council. Elaine and Trevor Pearce, of Norton, near Worcester, planted 53 trees, 100 shrubs and turf worth £2,000 without planning consent.

Shot baby case

A 14-year-old boy was accused of shooting a baby girl in the head with an airgun at Hettou-le-Holc, Tyne and Wear. Magistrates remanded him to local authority care until August 12. The baby, aged 14 weeks, is seriously ill in hospital.

Jaws of defeat

A shark which had been taken to an aquarium in Dingle, Co Kerry, by fishermen was taken offshore in a trawler and thrown overboard after attempting to bite staff. "It was a vicious thing of a thing, so we had to let it go," an official said.

Bathed in art

The Arts Council is awarding £4,176 to a Bristol arts group that is to stage an exhibition featuring a swim line on a bath. The show looks at living in a block of flats. The curator said: "It is an ironic comment on how art becomes part of one's identity."

Jogger remands

Alan Naylor, 26, and Wynndham Thomas, 19, of Crosserw, South Wales, and a youth, 17, were remanded in custody by Bridgend magistrates charged with murdering a jogger who was stabbed as he chased burglars from his home last week.

Farm pest alert

Farmers in Essex were warned to check their fields for Colorado beetles after inspectors at Harwich found an infested load of melons and potatoes in a lorry from Greece. The pest, unknown in Britain for 20 years, can ruin crops.

Post marked

The oldest, most northerly and most unusual post offices in the country feature on a new set of stamps to be issued next week. The four stamps, on sale from August 12, mark the centenary of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters.

CORRECTION

Tilda Swinton conceived and performed *The Mayhe* (article, June 29) at the Serpentine Gallery in 1992 with an installation created in collaboration with Cornelia Parker.

Pub chain bans sale of alcopops

By TIM JONES

A PUB chain yesterday banned the sale of alcopops from its bars. J.D. Wetherspoon, which sells up to 15,000 bottles of alcopops a week at its 194 pubs, made the decision after a month-long trial at one of its London sites.

Tim Martin, chairman of the chain, said: "Alcopops have had a lot of bad publicity and many people are concerned that they are attractive to people too young to drink legally."

"We are not telling other people to ban alcopops. We just do not want to be associated with the controversy."

Last month the Government announced a package of measures to discourage under-age drinking and sales of alcopops, including making it illegal for adults to buy alcohol on behalf of under-18s and plans to use teenagers to disclose retailers who sell to children.

Two supermarket chains, the Co-op and Iceland, have banned the fruit-flavoured drinks. Safeway said that from today it would no longer

promote alcopops. The drinks account for about 5 per cent of national alcohol sales. J.D. Wetherspoon said that its experimental ban had shown no impact on takings. Unlike most pub chains, which pursue the teenage market, Wetherspoon pubs do not have music and there are no-smoking areas.

Alcohol Concern welcomed the decision and urged other pub chains to ban alcopops. "We need a code of practice that is effective and does not leave the onus on licensees to take unilateral decisions," a spokesman said.

The Portman Group, the drinks industry watchdog, said that the Wetherspoon move was unlikely to have a great impact on under-age drinking. "More important than the issue of which drinks are stocked in a pub is the responsibility licensees have in not selling alcohol to under-18s," a spokesman said. "Just banning alcopops will not necessarily prevent young people obtaining alcohol from pubs."

British skipper stranded as stowaway vanishes

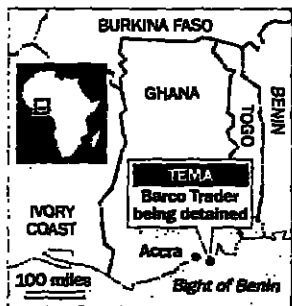
By RORY CARROLL

A BRITISH sea captain is stranded aboard his ship in Ghana amid accusations that a stowaway was killed and thrown overboard. The *Barco-Trader* is not being allowed to leave the port of Tema until Captain James Edge, 56, and two crew members are handed over to the authorities.

The captain's wife, May, of Weymouth, Dorset, said that the move was an attempt by corrupt officials to extort money from the merchant ship's German owners, and accused the Foreign Office of abandoning her husband for nearly three weeks and not doing enough to seek his release.

The ship follows a trade route between West Africa and Europe. A male Ghanaian stowaway was discovered on a journey from Ghana to Antwerp.

The man was said to have been put ashore after the ship off-loaded its cargo and returned to the port of Dakar on June 27. But 11 days later, when the *Barco-Trader* was further along the coast at



Tema, local immigration officials detained the ship and prevented it from leaving harbour. They refused to accept that the man was put ashore, and maintained that he must have been killed and thrown overboard.

Mrs Edge said: "The ship is now floating at anchor and they will not let it leave with my husband on board. They are running out of food, and things are getting very hard for him."

"The owners are sending a new skipper out there to take over the ship, and my husband will be brought ashore and held there along with his first officer and bosun."

"The police in Ghana know full well that nothing is amiss but the immigration people are a law unto themselves. The Foreign Office have done absolutely nothing to sort the situation out, and once the owners have their ship back my husband will just be forgotten."

The Foreign Office confirmed yesterday that Captain Edge and his vessel had been detained, and said that diplomats had been trying to help. A statement said: "We can confirm the detention at Tema of Captain John Edge and his vessel the *Barco-Trader*. Consular staff in London have spoken to Mrs Edge, and the British High Commission in Accra has been in touch with Captain Edge."

"We have also been in contact with the Ghanaian authorities, according to whom Captain Edge is being questioned regarding the death of a Ghanaian national alleged to have stowed away on board the *Barco-Trader*."

"The *Barco-Trader* is Cyprus registered and German owned, and we will render Captain and Mrs Edge every possible assistance."

This confusion is now ending with the Treasure Act, which was passed last year. It will come into force on September 24, and yesterday Mark Fisher, the Arts Minister, launched its accompanying code of practice.

"Treasure" will now include all objects with more than 10 per cent gold or silver — previously the amount of precious metal was not specified and could be minimal — and more than 300 years old, whatever their circumstances of burial or discovery.

It will also embrace objects made of other materials, such as pottery, found with precious metals. The archaeological value of such complete finds is far higher than that of isolated pieces lacking context.

Finders will still have to report their discoveries to the coroner, or risk a £5,000 fine or three months' jail. Rewards will continue to be paid, after valuation by an official committee, on finds that museums want to acquire. Landowners and occupiers will for the first time be eligible for rewards, as well as finders.

Golden end for buried treasure

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE final hoard of relics to be acquired for the nation under the medieval law of treasure trove was unveiled at the British Museum yesterday.

The collection of 22 Roman gold coins from West Sussex was "seized to the Crown" by the Chichester Coroner last month. The coins, now destined for Worthing Museum, span the reigns of seven emperors with the most recent minted in AD 461, making them the latest Roman hoard ever found in Britain.

Until now, the motive behind the burial of such a hoard had to be puzzled out by a coroner's jury: if there was evidence that gold or silver was hidden for later recovery, it was declared treasure trove and seized to the Crown — in effect, passing into a national or local museum collection. If, on the other hand, it was held to have been lost, or buried for eternity in a grave, it belonged to the finder, who could sell it.

Often the evidence was ambiguous: ancient minds are difficult to read.

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Cyprus assault case puts Army in dock again

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE disciplinary record of the British Army in Cyprus will come under the spotlight again today when four British soldiers appear before a court in Larnaca to answer charges of assaulting two British tourists in the resort of Ayia Napa.

Two holidaymakers from south-east London, Shane Bell, 27, of Eltham, and Barry Ford, 23, of Lee, and their girlfriends, were among a group of six people allegedly set upon by about eight off-duty soldiers as they were leaving a disco in the early hours of Saturday. Mr Bell has a fractured jaw and Mr Ford said that his girlfriend, Claire Harbott, 22, had had to have her wrist X-rayed and that it was badly bruised.

Cyprus police named the four soldiers, all of junior ranks, as Roger Bell, 26, Tim Carter, 27, Steven Wolstencroft, 26, and Steven Girvan, 20. If they are found guilty, all 600

soldiers from their regiment, the 1st Battalion, the King's Regiment, which is stationed at the British sovereign military base at Dhekelia, are likely to be banned from Ayia Napa, an army spokesman said last night.

It was the same resort where three Royal Green Jackets had been drinking heavily the night they sexually assaulted and battered to death the Danish tour guide Louise Jensen in September 1994. After her death, army commanders had declared the neon-lit resort out of bounds to all British bases personnel and those serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force, but as discipline improved the ban was gradually reduced to a curfew and finally lifted five weeks ago, on July 1.

In May, three drunken Royal Marines who cavorted naked in an Ayia Napa pub singing *God Save the Queen* were each fined £180 by the

OFFICER FACES CARPETING OVER CLASS ATTACK

AN ARMY major who attacked the Armed Forces' "antiquated" class system is to be interviewed by a senior officer today.

Major Eric Joyce, of the Army Training and Recruitment Agency, wrote a highly critical article for the left-wing Fabian Society, warning that the Armed Forces could not continue to be run only by public school-educated officers and should root out prejudice in

class, gender and race. He wrote: "The role played by social class and the centrality of outmoded Victorian values are now acting as powerful inhibitors in our efforts to deal effectively with our dire manpower crisis."

But John Speller, the junior Defence Minister, said the picture painted by Major Joyce was "not a picture that I recognise". He said the key issue was under-recruitment.

court in Larnaca. As a result, the regiment's Commandant-General, Major-General David Pennell, last month indefinitely banned the entire 6,000-strong Royal Marine Corps from training in Cyprus.

"Cases of indiscipline have been extremely few and far between and

this latest incident of an alleged assault is very regrettable," an army spokesman, Mervyn Wynne Jones, said. "Each of the four has been charged by Cypriot police with assault occasioning grievous bodily harm," he said.

The four soldiers are being held

under close arrest in their barracks, pending their court appearance," said Mr Wynne Jones.

"The Commander of British Forces views the matter with considerable concern and every assistance is being offered to Cypriot in their investigation of this incident," he said. The commander "will be monitoring the case closely and a resumption of the off-duty out-of-bounds restrictions in Ayia Napa is likely to be imposed upon the unit concerned", Mr Wynne Jones added.

Cypriots had long accused the British Army's top brass of turning a blind eye to the drunken brawling of off-duty soldiers before the Jensen killing.

Incidents such as that which allegedly took place on Saturday, belie the improved disciplinary record of off-duty servicemen in Cyprus after action to curb drunken and loutish behaviour was announced by force commanders following Ms Jensen's death.

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Designer wins legal aid for fashion fight

Mark Henderson on the Givenchy dress that sparked a damages claim



The Givenchy dress modelled by Eva Herzigova

A FORMER fashion student who claims his design for an "off the breast" dress was copied by Alexander McQueen, the designer-in-chief for the Parisian couture house Givenchy, has been granted legal aid to pursue a damages claim.

Trevor Merrell, 35, from Deptford, south London, is to sue McQueen and Givenchy for breach of copyright over a dress modelled by Eva Herzigova in Paris in January, which he says was based on one that he had designed for a fashion show on the Isle of Wight two years ago. McQueen denies the accusation.

McQueen's white, ankle-length dress, which was cut low over the model's right breast, caused a stir when it was shown as part of his first Givenchy collection, which had a Greek mythological theme.

Merrell's dress, which he entered at the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup collection in June 1995, was made from a different material but was also designed to show the model's right breast. She had to wear a flesh-coloured T-shirt underneath as the show's organisers considered the original too revealing.

Trino Verkade, a spokesman for McQueen, said that he had never met Merrell nor seen any of his designs. "It is absurd to say that because both dresses are white and have one shoulder, that one is based on another," she said



Trevor Merrell, left, claims that his design was copied by Givenchy's recruit, Alexander McQueen

yesterday. "It wasn't the first design like that and it won't be the last. Are people going to start suing anyone who makes a strapless black dress because it's been done before?"

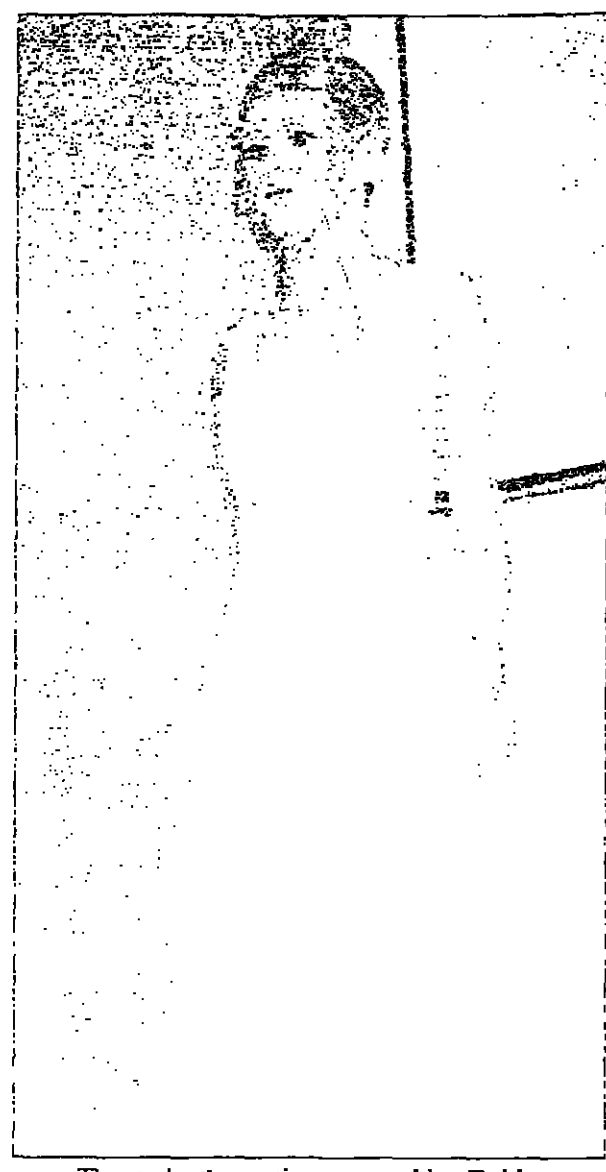
Ms Verkade said that McQueen, the 27-year-old son of a taxi driver from east London, would fight the case and was confident of success. "This chap is doing this for the publicity, not because he has a case," she said. "Alexander McQueen is a big name and it is a good way for him to make his name known."

Merrell's dress was lost after the show and he was compensated by the London

College of Fashion, where he was a student. He said that he had always been suspicious about what had happened to it and was astonished when he saw newspaper photographs of the McQueen outfit. "I couldn't believe it," he said. "The dress looked just like mine."

"I do not believe the similarities are coincidental," he said. "It would be truly remarkable. Eva Herzigova was even wearing an ancient Greece-style headpiece, as was my model."

Merrell said that his solicitors had told him he had a better than even chance of winning his case and that he



The student's creation, worn with a T-shirt

Riders would rather not be saddled with unbridled passion

By Robin Young

RIDERS are not all that Jilly Cooper cracked them up to be. Far from insatiably rolling each other in the hay, two out of three prefer the company of their horses to that of their partners.

A survey of 1,000 riders shows other signs that the horse is the real focus of their affections: they sneak off work for secret riding sessions, they confide their problems to their horse, and they try to keep the costs secret from their partners.

In Cooper's steamy blockbuster, *Riders*, memorably jacketed with the rear view of a pair of taut jodhpurs, horse-owners and stable hands were portrayed as fit for stud in their own right. In reality, the survey by *Gallop!* magazine has found that horses are way ahead in commanding obsessive attention.

Not only do 63 per cent of riders say they prefer the horse's company but, even if it came to a showdown where they had to give up their partner or their horse, a quarter would choose the horse and 47 per cent said they could not decide.

Only 10 per cent said they preferred holidays just with their partners, leaving the horse at home. Nine-tenths of women riders said they would rather have a new horse than a baby, on the ground that you cannot ride a baby or leave it in a field.

Half the riders admitted to having absented themselves



The bottom line: owners say truth is less exciting

from work for secret riding sessions, and some admitted that they confided their problems to their horse rather than their partner, as they got a more sympathetic hearing. Unsurprisingly, 53 per cent of the horse-owners' partners were jealous of their equine rivals. Only one third shared their loved one's passion for horses.

Although half the horse-owners thought they looked sexy in their riding gear, and found other people in jodhpurs a turn-on, three quarters did not think they were more likely to have an affair than those with other hobbies.

Maureen Collins, of *Gallop!*, said: "Riding a horse is like a drug — one gallop and you're hooked for life. People are passionate about it."

Cooper said: "Nothing surprises me, particularly with

horsey people. You should obviously love animals almost as much as anything else, but the findings are really a sad indictment on modern relationships. It suggests people are not communicating with each other and are instead escaping with their horses."

While horses may indeed represent some relief from domestic trouble and strife, they are themselves expensive and troublesome creatures. More than half the riders interviewed had been injured by their four-legged friends, with almost half the catalogues of resulting physical damage including broken bones.

The average purchase price for a horse was £1,610, with owners in London and the South East spending the most, on average £2,023, compared with those in Ireland who had to pay £1,222.

Riders spent a further £95.34 a month to stable their horses, plus an average of £131.71 annually on vets' bills and £213.38 on a year's insurance — a total additional annual bill for essential running costs of £1,489.17.

Half the owners admitted deceiving their jealous partners about how much their horses really cost, and more than a third admitted being driven into debt by their love of horses.

Horses are no less time-consuming than human partners. The average horse-owner spends 10.5 hours a week grooming the animal and 8.5 hours in the saddle.

Bird's-eye view reveals allure of opposite sex

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE sex appeal of the male starling has much more to it than meets the human eye, a study of the birds' mating behaviour has shown.

Starlings can see in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum, outside the range of human vision, so ornithologists have been unaware of the special allure that females find in the dark, iridescent plumage of the males.

A team at Bristol and Regensburg universities proved the existence of the starling's ultraviolet sight by watching females as they were introduced to males. The females' interest can be assessed by the length of time they stared at the males, or the number of times they hopped up and down while looking at them.

Using transparent films to block out ultraviolet wavelengths, the team showed that females made different



The starling: hidden powers of attraction

choices when denied the use of ultraviolet frequencies. They were still able to choose but appeared to do so on some different basis, perhaps judging the way a male displayed his feathers.

Reporting in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Andrew Bennett and colleagues say that the strongest signals in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum come from the feathers around the male's throat. As long as this ultraviolet signal

could be seen, different females consistently picked the same males. But when it was filtered out, their choices changed. "The ranking was completely different," Dr Bennett says. "What we cannot tell is what exactly the birds were seeing that we cannot see, but we do know that it is important to them."

The study is interesting, he says, because, ever since Darwin, ornithologists have seen animal colour patterns from a human perspective. Bright colours are believed to act as signals to the opposite sex, particularly when males are being selected. But if birds are using a different wavelength to make their choices, then many of these studies may need to be reconsidered.

Dr Bennett says that further experiments are needed to show whether the ultraviolet is a special waveband for avian signalling, or whether it is used to convey the condition of a male, rather than attractiveness.



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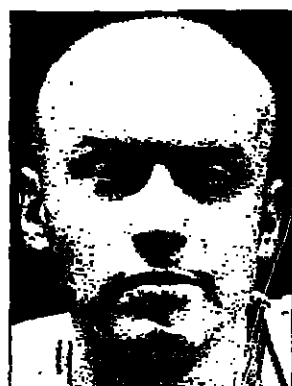
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Playwright to inject new life into This Life



Ravenhill: will create controversial story lines

By CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ONE of British theatre's most avant-garde talents has been asked to help to develop a third series of *This Life*. BBC2's hit twenty-something drama.

Mark Ravenhill, whose West End play *Shopping and ...* deals with drugs, prostitution and alienated youth, is in advanced talks with the producers of the show, which ends its second series this week.

It is understood that Mr Ravenhill, 31, has been asked to provide ideas to inject an even more

risqué element into the story of young lawyers sharing a house. Episodes have already featured homosexual sex and drug abuse.

The BBC has received a deluge of calls from fans who fear that the episode on Thursday — repeated on Saturday — will mark the end of the drama. It is not yet clear how many, if any, of the five main characters — Miles, Anna, Egg, Milly and Ferdy — will be involved. World Productions, which makes *This Life*, refused to comment.

Mr Ravenhill's spokeswoman said the BBC confirmed yesterday that he was having discussions with World Productions. A BBC

spokeswoman said: "We are desperately keen for a third series, but we don't know which characters would remain. One of the premises of the drama is that it is based on a household, and in households people move on and new ones come in. That is real life."

"However, it has done for us exactly what we wanted it to do — attract a younger audience to BBC2 — and we want it to return. There is enormous interest in it."

The programme, which attracts more than four million viewers, has avoided having a soap opera feel by using a variety of scriptwriters — ten over the past 21 episodes.

It had been rumoured that some of the actors, especially Jack Davenport, who plays Miles, and Daniela Nardini, who plays Anna, were unwilling to return because they had good roles elsewhere. Davenport said yesterday: "It's certainly not the case that I wouldn't do a third series if they made one. Not at all. I love the show, the writing's great, I like the people who work on it. But no one has asked me to do a third series."

Amrita Dhiri, who plays Milly, said: "There is another one being written, but I don't think we'll be anything to do with it. When the first series ended, we were put on a

retainer, but this time we haven't been." Nardini is to star in *Big Women*, a Channel 4 drama written by Fay Weldon. In it she will play a feisty feminist. *Big Women* will also feature Natasha Little, who plays Francesca, Miles's fiancée, in *This Life*.

World Productions is owned by Tony Garnett, who also makes the popular programmes *Ballykissangel* and *Between the Lines*. Future episodes of *Friends*, the American series said to have inspired *This Life*, will each cost \$4 million (£2.5 million) under a deal agreed yesterday (Tunku Varadarajan in New York writes).

The cast, who negotiated collectively, will be paid \$80,000 (£50,000) each per episode. They had threatened to leave the series, produced by Warner Brothers, if they did not receive \$100,000.

The deal, one of the most expensive in television history, will extend *Friends* to 1999. It is one of the two most popular programmes on Channel 4.

The series has a simple formula: the stars, three female and three male, do little more than hang out at home and in their favourite cafe, mulling over the challenges of life and love that face twenty-somethings in New York.

Taffy the goat joins salute to Queen Mother

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother gives every impression that she will see out the century that began a few months before her birth. Yesterday she went walkabout for a good half-hour among the crowds who had gathered outside her London home to celebrate her 97th birthday.

Several thousand tourists and well-wishers crowded the pavements around Clarence House for a glimpse of one of the oldest patients on record to have a hip replacement operation, who was born during the Boer War in Victoria's reign, in the year that Marconi took out his patent for the wireless and three years before the Wright brothers made their first flight.

Dressed in a cloud of floral-printed pink chiffon, the Queen Mother looked remarkably sprightly for her years. She made much use of a brass-handled walking cane, but the bandages that have disfigured her legs for many years had gone and she managed two lengthy spells under her own power, greeting the crowd, shaking hands and receiving mountains of bouquets.

She was followed by the traditional royal golf buggy, recently resprayed in a fetching scheme of gold and duck-

Alan Hamilton
reports on a
sprightly royal
walkabout to
celebrate
97th birthday

egg blue. She eventually accepted a lift in it, but not before she had accepted dozens of flowers from children in the crowd and her traditional flute of champagne from a red-coated assembly of toastmasters.

At the start of her walkabout she was accompanied by her grandson, the Duke of York, who was offered champagne from the same 20-bottle Nebuchadnezzar, but in his case in a polystyrene cup. As soon as the 45-minute walkabout was over, the Duke shot off in his dark-green Aston Martin to Wentworth golf course, where his former wife was hosting a match in support of one of her few remaining charities, the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

During her walkabout the Queen Mother was presented

with a laurel wreath by two children representing the Friends of War Memorials. It was intended as a reminder that many memorials to the war in which she and her husband, George VI, were the figureheads of a nation in conflict are now neglected and in decay.

Among the regular royal watchers in the crowd was Colin Edwards, a retired local government officer from Macclesfield, Cheshire, who read the Queen Mother a poem that he had written for the birthday celebrations.

Mr Edwards, 56, said: "She said that my poem was the best I had written yet, but I joked, 'Oh, you say that every year,' and she laughed. I told her that I would be here in three years' time for her 100th birthday celebrations and she just kept on laughing."

Before her walkabout the Queen Mother had been serenaded by the band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, playing *Happy Birthday* in the street. The fact that the band was preceded by Taffy, the regal goat, puzzled the large contingent of American tourists.

Later, most members of the Queen Mother's greatly extended family joined her for lunch and briefly posed for a



Acknowledging the crowd's greetings outside Clarence House, in the company of the Prince of Wales and Princes Harry and William

group photograph at the Clarence House gates as a drizzle began to descend. The party included her two children, the Queen and Princess Margaret, four of her grandchildren,

the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal with Captain Timothy Laurence, Lord Linley with his wife, Serena, and Lady Sarah Chatto with her husband, Daniel. There were

great-grandchildren too, led by Prince William. He is now taller than his father but looked painfully shy and uncomfortable in front of a large crowd of public and press.

Prince Harry was joined by the Princess Royal's children, Peter and Zara Phillips. Missing from the family group were the Queen Mother's grandson, Prince Edward,

who was thought to be filming somewhere, the Duke of Edinburgh, who is at Cowes, and the Duke of York's children, the Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie.

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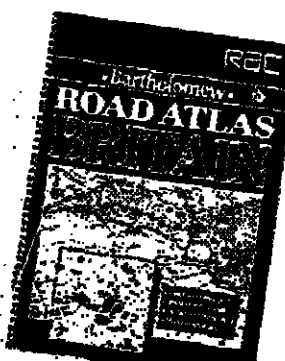
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Five held for death of Briton

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

POLICE in South Africa have arrested five suspects in connection with the killing of a British surgeon last week in a township in KwaZulu/Natal after his vehicle was hijacked at gunpoint.

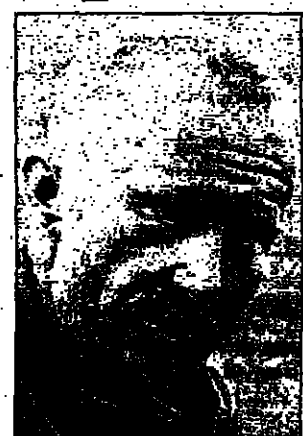
Police said that they had recovered the minibus belonging to Spence Alexander in Eskheweni, a township where the hijackers had stopped at a petrol station. Dr Alexander was attacked while trying to escape. He was stabbed and shot by the gang, who drove off in his minibus. Bystanders took him to a clinic in nearby Empangeni, where he died.

Dr Alexander, 38, who was born in Aberdeen and trained in Cardiff, had moved to South Africa in 1990 with his wife, Jean, who is also a doctor, and had been living in Empangeni. The couple had three children.

The suspects will appear in court tomorrow.

Climber flown to safety after chapati accident

BY PETER FOSTER



Hinkes: he slipped a disc after sneezing fit

THE British mountaineer stranded for a week in the Himalayas after an improbable encounter with a chapati was finally flown to safety yesterday.

Alan Hinkes, who was attempting to become the first Briton to scale the world's 14 highest peaks, slipped a disc after flour dusted over the unleavened bread sent him into a sneezing fit.

After a painful and frustrating week eating out supplies of food and painkillers at base camp halfway up the 8,125-metre Nanga Parbat, the climber from Northallerton, North Yorkshire, was rescued by helicopter early yesterday.

He landed in Islamabad, where he was examined by Dr Rifat Zaidi, an orthopaedic specialist who grew up near Northallerton.

"I'm already feeling better," he said. "The doctor said it could take more than a month to recover from the injury but I should be able to start working out in the gym in a week."

Mr Hinkes is staying with friends in the city and will be going into hospital for daily

treatment and physiotherapy before returning to Britain to rebuild his fitness.

During his ordeal, Mr Hinkes, 43, became increasingly annoyed as the helicopter repeatedly failed to reach his camp at 4,000m. "They claimed the base camp was too high for the helicopter but 4,000m is within its range," he said.

Still in agony, but tired with waiting, he packed up his equipment and, with the help

of porters from the nearest village, hobbled down to 3,300m, where it was easier for rescuers to meet him. His efforts paid off yesterday morning after he built a makeshift beacon to attract the pilots' attention. "I got my cook to build a bonfire, with branches from nearby shrubs, and to make a big 'H' with stones on the ground, then just before dawn broke I called the helicopter firm on my satellite phone."

"The chopper left Islamabad about 7.30am, the pilot knew where to come and when we heard it approaching we lit the fire and this time, after all the daily disappointments, it found me."

Mr Hinkes, who is a consultant to the outdoor clothing manufacturer Berghaus, said he intended to resume his challenge as soon as possible. He hopes to become the first man to climb six Himalayan peaks higher than 8,000m in a year. His next targets are likely to be Dhaulagiri, the world's sixth highest peak at 26,795ft, and Annapurna, the tenth at 25,546ft, both in the Nepal-Himalayas, in September and October.

Repeat cautions 'used too often'

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FEWER offenders are being given repeat cautions by police, according to the Home Office. But there are wide variations between forces on the use of cautions and informal warnings.

Only six out of 42 forces in England and Wales said they would not use a caution for an indictable offence. Other forces said they would take into account the exact details of the crime before making a decision. Many said they also used discretion in decisions, rather than using the gravity of the crimes as a guide.

The research, published yesterday, was carried out in 1995 and shows the number of adults and juveniles cautioned

falling while the number of people aged from 18 to 20 continues to increase. The researchers said this may be due to a policy of using cautions to avoid bringing people into the criminal justice system. There are also wide variations in the use of informal warnings.

Alan Michael, Home Office Minister, said cautions could be an effective weapon for some offenders. The research showed that too many repeat cautions were still being used for juveniles and the Government was committed to put a stop to repeat cautions. Instead, young offenders will be given a final warning, before being taken to court.

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India turns its back on Gandhi's legacy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

IN THE heart of New Delhi a stone canopy built by the Raj for a statue of King George V — he was removed years ago to moulder in a far-away public park — stands empty. It is reserved for a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, the voice of India's conscience. India is too embarrassed, perhaps too ashamed, to erect it.

The canopy is at the end of a broad boulevard, Rajpath, which sweeps down from the Presidential Palace to India Gate, a sort of pink Arc de Triomphe. It is the obvious spot for a statue of the Mahatma, but India cannot bring itself to insult the peacemaker by putting it there. The reason strikes at the heart of why Gandhi is all but irrelevant to modern India.

A statue of him was made years ago to fit into the canopy, but it gathers dust in a Ministry of Public Works warehouse, practically as unseen as the many Raj-era monuments that are chanted-



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

ly assembled in a park in north Delhi, cracked and blackening — and also something of an embarrassment.

India, despite its zeal in renaming cities, streets and parks to remove the nomenclature of colonialism, has never felt able to destroy the old Delhi relics, which for several decades have been protected from vandals by a couple of *chowkidars* (guards) in a fenced enclosure.

A certain sentiment attaches to the reminders of the past: like Lutyens's New Delhi, they have become an irremovable leftover of the Raj — and hiding the statues in a remote corner has seemed a better option than destroying them.

Gandhi's statue has not been erected in King George's



Gandhi: his statue is stored in a warehouse

place because every Republic Day the armed forces dispatch convoys of war machines down Rajpath, sweeping noisily round India Gate and on to the canopy where Gandhi should stand. But it would insult the apostle of non-violence if he were placed amid such military braggadocio; thus the canopy remains unoccupied.

The question of the Mahatma's statue is a nagging and

revealing issue as India approaches its 50th anniversary of independence on August 15. It is a reminder of how far the country has strayed from the ideals of Gandhi, who would have been horrified to know that India would develop the world's fourth largest army, build missiles, and become a nuclear power.

India defied his ideas for developing the nation from village level, embarking instead on massive industrialisation — a process that has left the country burdened with massive and loss-making nationalised industries. Gandhi argued that villages were the soul of India; he would be distressed to see how they have developed, with young people moving to towns to escape rural poverty.

India is proud of Gandhi, but his voice has failed to reverberate through time. His home state of Gujarat observes one tradition in his memory, at least theoretically: prohibition. Beyond that, he does not greatly touch the country he led and inspired.



General Basmullah Khan, left, takes a field radio to direct yesterday's battle as Taleban troops again attacked two villages only a few miles from Kabul. After six hours of fighting, the front lines had hardly moved.

Warlord presses to end stalemate in Kabul battle

FROM BRIAN WILLIAMS IN QARABAGH, AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN'S Taleban movement and the opposition alliance exchanged artillery and rocket fire and bombed each other's positions near Kabul yesterday in some of the fiercest clashes of a two-week battle for the capital.

The opposition general controlling the front line at this devastated village about two miles from where the two sides were exchanging fire said his so-called Northern Alliance forces had killed at least 40 troops of the Islamic fundamentalist Taleban movement which holds the capital.

General Basmullah Khan told reporters that his forces had also destroyed a Taleban tank and captured another during the battle that lasted at least six hours at two key points on the capital's battlefront. Taleban forces used helicopter gunships in their attempt to break through the strategic villages of Zina and Hussainkot, which mark the front line.

Russian-made jets from both sides dropped bombs on each other's forces. The Taleban bombing attack shortly after midday was directed against General

Khan's frontline headquarters. A bomb landed about 800 yards from where he was directing his forces, but there were no casualties at the headquarters.

About 50 refugees, including half a dozen young children, carried what they could on their backs as they walked down the road away from the fighting towards territory controlled by the alliance.

General Khan said it was the sixth time that Taleban had tried to punch its way through. Zina and Hussainkot to relieve pressure on the capital.

The battle took place in temperatures of up to 47°C (116°F). By the time it had died down in mid-afternoon, there appeared to be little change in either side's positions.

Two weeks ago, the opposition forces led by the legendary guerrilla leader, Ahmed Shah, Massoud, advanced to within 12 miles of Kabul.

Taleban, which controls two-thirds of Afghanistan, has vowed to take the whole country and rid it of the warlords it blames for the chaos since the defeat of the Communist regime five years ago. (Reuters)

Separatists seek return to French rule on island

BY INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

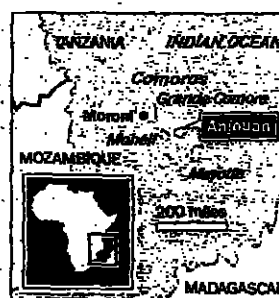
AS FRANCE begins the process of scaling down its military bases in Africa, separatists on a small island in the Comoros, in the Indian Ocean, have asked to return to French rule.

More than 7,000 Anjouan islanders marched to the Governor's Palace at the weekend and hoisted the tricolour of France. An independence declaration signed by the leader of the Anjouan People's Movement, a 71-year-old Eboric teacher named Abdallah Ibrahim, called on France to "listen to the cries of distress of the people of Anjouan".

Clashes between the military and demonstrators have left four dead in recent weeks. But at the weekend, soldiers and gendarmes left the streets to the rebels, who set up barricades and declared that the island was "officially re-attached" to France.

The barricades were strengthened before dawn yesterday as rumours swept Mutamudu, the main town, that the central Government was sending troop reinforcements over from Grande Comore, the main island.

In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry rejected the islanders' pleas. Eager not to set a precedent infringing the inviolability of African borders, Yves Doutriaux, a ministry spokesman, voiced hopes that the Comoros Government could find solutions to Anjouan's social and economic problems through dialogue. "Any solution must, quite obviously, fully respect the territorial integrity of the Comoros Islamic Federal Re-

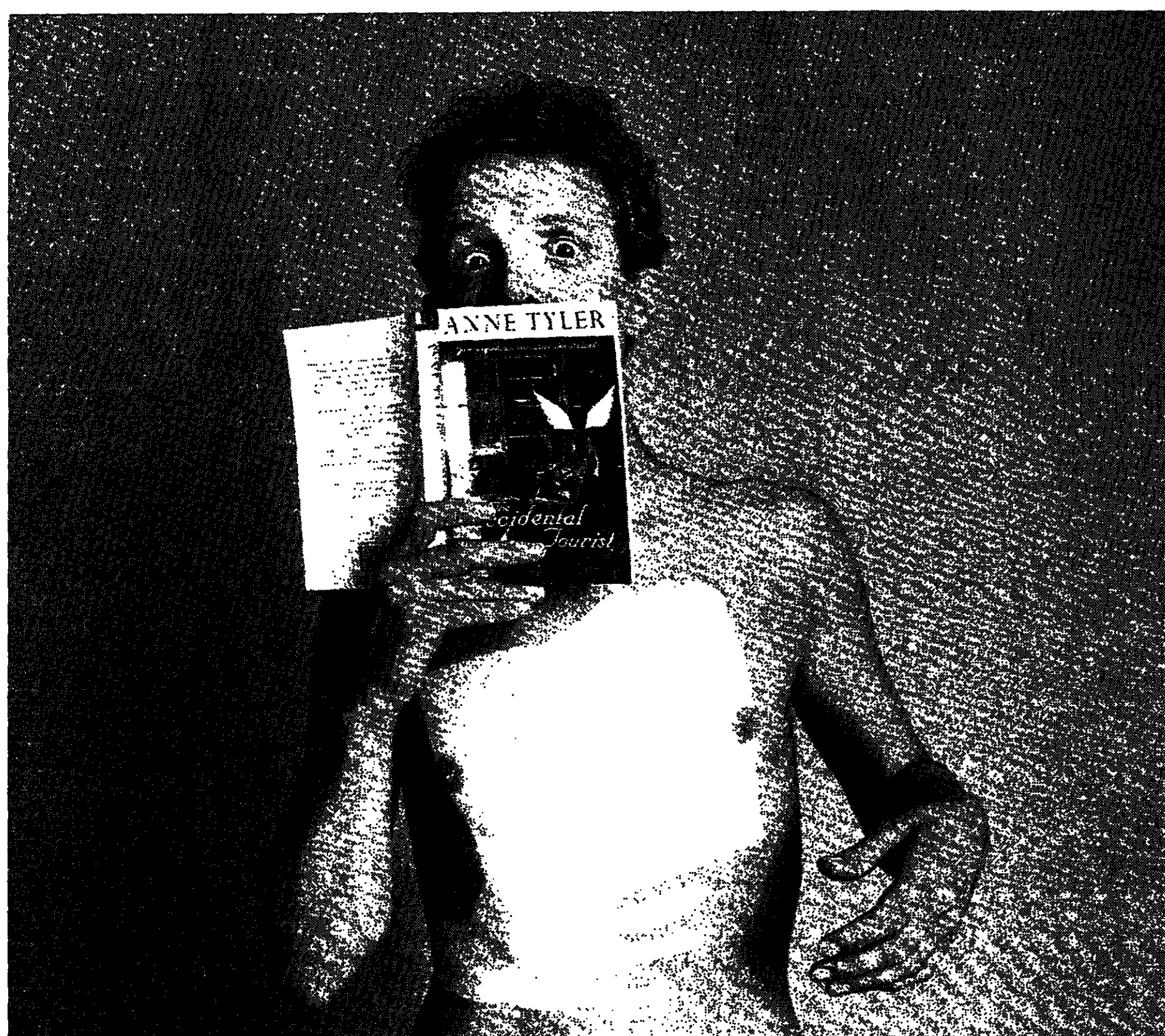


public. We condemn separatist moves," he told a news briefing.

The Anjouan islanders say they have experienced poverty and political unrest since the main group of the Comoros islands declared independence from France in 1975. Anjouan's poverty contrasts with the comparative prosperity of the adjoining island of Mayotte, which voted to remain French in 1975 and today enjoys the benefits of free education, health care, a minimum wage and family allowances thanks to revenues from Paris.

In Moroni, the capital on Grande Comore, state radio made no mention of Sunday's mass rally. Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, confirmed yesterday cuts in troop levels in Africa. He told the daily *Liberation* that France would reduce its forces to less than 6,000 from 8,100. The forces would be redeployed at five bases in Senegal, Gabon, Chad, Ivory Coast and Djibouti and the large Bouar base in the Central African Republic would be closed, he said.

The number of French combat planes based in Africa would be cut to 12 from 15 while transport planes would be boosted to up to nine from the current six or seven.



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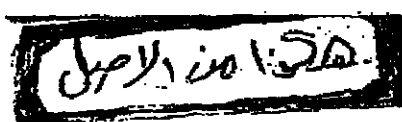
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Netanyahu ultimatum to Arafat on terror

Hezbollah vows revenge after attacks by Israel kill five in south Lebanon

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL is winning the propaganda war being waged on American television in the wake of the Jerusalem bombings.

Realising that Washington's continued support is essential to his cause, Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has reserved some of his harshest words about Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, for the satellite links between his office and the Washington offices of the big American networks.

"It's not only the lives of innocent women and children that are at stake," Mr Netanyahu told CBS. "I believe the whole peace is at stake. Arafat must make a choice and he must make it now."

Mr Netanyahu demanded that Mr Arafat launch an "all-out sweep to round up the terrorists" responsible for the attacks that killed 15 people, including the two bombers, and injured 150 others in Jerusalem's central market. Mr Netanyahu said his Government had indications that there could be more attempts at terrorism. "Unfortunately, we are prepared for the worst," he said.

As he spoke, Hezbollah, the militant Islamic group, vowed to launch revenge attacks after bombs planted by Israeli commandos killed five of their

guerrilla fighters in southern Lebanon. The roadside bomb blasts followed two hours of fierce fighting between the Israeli forces and Hezbollah guerrillas at Kfour in Nabatiyeh.

In Beirut, a Hezbollah statement confirmed the deaths and injuries to six civilians. The Israelis reported no casualties.

In Jerusalem, the Israeli Defence Force said in a statement that "a number of terrorists" were hit, while all of the Israeli troops returned safely.

Mr Netanyahu's media skills have gone swiftly into overdrive since the Jerusalem killings, blunting some of the early criticism that his insistence on building Jewish settlements in Arab east Jerusalem could have provoked the continued violence by Hamas militants.

Even if that were the case, Mr Netanyahu has managed to portray the Arafat regime as dragging its feet in rounding up terrorists. Indeed, he said that another choice for Mr Arafat was to decide if he wanted to be the head of a rogue nation that sponsored terrorism, like Libya, or one like Egypt that determinedly hunted down Muslim militants in its midst.

Israel has found support from US officials in its attempts to win over American hearts and minds. Samuel

Berger, the National Security Adviser to President Clinton, acknowledged that Mr Arafat's co-operation on security questions had been uneven. Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House, unleashed a forceful attack on Mr Arafat and said that Israel had every right to send punitive missions into Gaza and the West Bank in pursuit of the bombers.

The Palestinians have been outflanked, but Mr Arafat's chief negotiator, Saeb Erekat, did tell CNN that Mr Netanyahu was blaming the Palestinian Authority without "a shred of evidence" about who was responsible for last week's attack. Mr Arafat, he said, had offered to join with Israel to find out who was responsible for the terrorist activity.

But Mr Netanyahu said yesterday that even if it were found that the terrorists came from overseas, the Palestinian Authority could not escape responsibility for last week's double suicide bombing.

The Prime Minister admitted that Israel still did not know the identities or even the origins of the attackers in Jerusalem's open-air Mahane Yehuda market. But, he insisted, it was likely that the terrorists had been aided by residents in the Palestinian self-rule areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It is reasonable to suppose, as in the past, that wherever they came from, they had to have been assisted by an organisation, an infrastructure of local people," Mr Netanyahu said.

"It is very difficult to suppose that this action was done without the help of local people, and we know of many instances that it is this infrastructure that makes all the difference."

Mr Netanyahu said: "The infrastructure is here, it is placed here, and operates from areas under the Palestinian Authority. The Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organisations are all established in the areas of the



A Palestinian tries to talk his way through an Israeli roadblock south of Ramallah yesterday as Israel kept its pressure on Yasser Arafat

authority, and the authority has not acted against this infrastructure."

The Prime Minister was speaking after a meeting with Phil Gramm, the American Republican senator. Mr Gramm told reporters that the American Congress would halt aid worth hundreds of millions of dollars unless Palestinians stepped up efforts to prevent attacks against Israelis. He said that Israel's "strong supporters" in Congress believed Palestinians were not meeting commitments to clamp down on militant opponents of the peace accords.

After the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accords in 1993, America pledged to transfer a total of \$500 million to the Palestinian Authority over a period of five years. But the payments are made annually, and Mr Gramm indicated

that they might now come to an abrupt halt. "Authorisation for Palestinian aid, as you know, expires on August 12. It will not be renewed by the United States Congress, in my opinion, unless the Palestinians begin living up to the commitments they've made."

The senator added that Americans were concerned about the latest suicide bombings. "I think the peace process is jeopardised by it," he said. Mr Netanyahu has meanwhile denied reports that he opposed a proposed visit to Washington by President Weizman. President Clinton has invited

the Israeli President to meet him, a move that has surprised observers since Mr Weizman's role is meant to be mainly ceremonial, similar to that of a governor-general in former British colonies. The invitation may reflect a growing desire by America to listen

Moratinos, the European Union envoy to the Middle East, who brought with him a confidential message from Mr Arafat. Senior Moratinos publicly criticised Israeli sanctions against the Palestinians in the wake of the suicide bombings, including the closure imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The envoy said that the Israeli security measures were "bringing insecurity".

Senior Moratinos said Mr Netanyahu had assured him that he was willing to ease the measures once Mr Arafat had taken stronger action to eradicate the sources of violence and to prevent further attacks on Israelis.

The envoy said that the European Union had proposed the creation of a new permanent Israeli-Palestinian security committee in an attempt to salvage the stalled

Middle East peace process. "The EU is seeking to present some concrete ideas for the creation of a permanent security committee in which Israelis and Palestinians work together continuously and not on an interim basis," he told Spanish television.

The committee could bring Israeli and Palestinian security authorities together to exchange information, said Senior Moratinos, the former Spanish Ambassador to Israel.

Mr Arafat arrived in Amman yesterday and went straight into talks with King Hussein on the latest crisis in peace talks, officials said.

Before the Arafat-Hussein meeting, Jordan had urged Israel to keep peace talks with the Palestinians alive, saying that the alternative would be a "catastrophe" for the whole region.



Netanyahu at a meeting in his office yesterday

Identical twins in HIV tests

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

SIX sets of identical twins are to take part in a trial using gene therapy which Australian scientists yesterday hailed as a possible breakthrough in the search for a treatment for the AIDS virus, HIV.

Researchers at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation plan to test their "gene shears" technology on each set of twins, one of whom has the HIV virus and one of whom has not, in order to find out if it can block the spread of HIV in patients who are already infected. It is the first time that the technology has been applied to the search for an AIDS-related treatment.

Peter McGauran, the federal Science Minister, said: "Initial test-tube experiments suggest gene shears could provide a very effective weapon in preventing HIV taking hold in the body. I do not need to underscore what a breakthrough that would be."

Gene shears therapy is based on the discovery that enzymes called ribozymes can act like a pair of scissors to chop up pieces of unwanted genetic material in the body.

Dr Geoff Symonds, of Johnson and Johnson, a partner in the venture, said: "Ribozymes can act to both decrease the amount of HIV virus that is replicating and to increase cell survival."

London starts talks on volcano island's future

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

BERTRAND OSBORNE, the Chief Minister of the stricken island of Montserrat, yesterday began talks in London on whether the tiny Caribbean island is still viable after two years of devastating volcanic eruptions.

The talks started after eruptions early yesterday morning and on Sunday night sent an avalanche of hot gas, rock and ash pouring down the slopes of the Soufriere Hills volcano into the streets of Plymouth, the abandoned capital.

Mr Osborne, leading a delegation of six ministers and prominent businessmen, will hold talks at the Foreign Office and the Department for International Development as well as the Red Cross, emergency relief officials and some of the hundreds of islanders who have fled to Britain. Tomorrow, the delegation will be received at Buckingham Palace by the Queen.

Britain, which has announced emergency aid and relief amounting to £41 million, yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to Montserrat. "There is no doubt that we are determined that the island — including its docks, schools, government buildings and the Governor's residence — should be abandoned. All important public services have since been moved to the north end of the island. The small airport has also been closed, leaving Montserrat accessible only by ferry from nearby Antigua."

Nearly half of the island's 11,000 residents have already fled. Of those who remain, about 1,200 have been forced to seek refuge in overcrowded government shelters.

At the London talks, various options are to be considered, including the permanent relocation of the island's main infrastructure to Salem.

Britain is considering holding a referendum among the remaining inhabitants to find out how many people want to continue living there.

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Britain is considering holding a referendum among the remaining inhabitants to find out how many people want to continue living there.

menting the oil-for-food relaxation of post-Gulf War sanctions was apparently intended to put pressure on the Security Council to accelerate the procedure for approving shipments of humanitarian goods. Fred Eckhardt, a UN spokesman, said the Iraqi Government had been informed of the approval, but he declined to say when oil exports might resume. But a Western diplomat suggested that Iraq could resume sales by the weekend.

Iraq was barred from exporting oil under UN sanctions imposed in 1990 after Saddam Hussein sent troops into neighbouring Kuwait, which provoked the Gulf War. (AP)

UN approves Iraqi food plan

New York: Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday approved an Iraqi plan for distributing food and medicine, bought with oil revenues, Iraq has sold no oil on the world market since late May, saying that it would await Mr Annan's approval.

Baghdad's delay in implementing the oil-for-food relaxation of post-Gulf War sanctions was apparently intended to put pressure on the Security Council to accelerate the procedure for approving shipments of humanitarian goods. Fred Eckhardt, a UN spokesman, said the Iraqi Government had been informed of the approval, but he declined to say when oil exports might resume. But a Western diplomat suggested that Iraq could resume sales by the weekend.

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Prayers for 'miracle'

RESCUERS yesterday raced against the weather to find eight people still buried in the rubble of a landslide at an Australian ski resort, urged on by prayers for another miracle survivor. Ten bodies have been recovered (Our Foreign Staff writes).

One woman thought to have been buried in the landslide along with the 19 occupants of two ski lodges turned up alive and well — she had left Thredbo shortly after the disaster with her husband.

Rescuers last night began erecting big sheets of plastic over the five-day-old heap of concrete slabs, twisted metal and dirt. Heavy equipment was used to stabilise the ground amid fears that the bad weather could render the site more dangerous. Rain and snow were originally forecast for Thursday but could come earlier, officials said.

About 500 people, including ski instructors, gathered in church to pray. Villagers linked arms and wept.

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Lawyer's wife 'was fondled by Clinton'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON was alleged to have kissed and fondled a woman in his private hideaway off the Oval Office, according to her lawyer, while under investigation for embezzlement.

The disputed incident involved Kathleen Willey on the day, unknown to her, her lawyer husband killed himself, while under investigation for embezzlement.

Last week Mrs Willey was issued with a subpoena by lawyers for Mrs Jones who are trying to establish a pattern of improper sexual advances by Mr Clinton. Newsweek magazine reported that Linda Tripp, a former assistant in the White House counsel's office, said she ran into Mrs Willey in the West Wing. Mrs Willey had just left the Oval Office after seeing Mr Clinton on November 29, 1993.

According to the magazine, Miss Tripp said Mrs Willey told her she had stepped into an adjoining small private office with Mr Clinton where he kissed and fondled her.

Miss Tripp described Mrs Willey as "dishevelled". Her face was red and her lipstick was off. She was "flustered, happy and joyful" and not in any way appalled. Newsweek reported, Miss Tripp, a former friend of Mrs Willey's, said she was speaking out to make it clear the alleged episode was



Jones: her lawyers took out subpoena

not a case of sexual harassment, although still damaging to the President. Newsweek quotes another friend, Julie Steele, as saying Mrs Willey did not seem upset about Mr Clinton's alleged advances.

According to the magazine's narrative, Mrs Willey, 51, and her husband, Edward, were well-to-do Clinton fundraisers. A former flight attendant, she landed a volunteer job in the White House after his election. Then her husband ran into debt and was accused of embezzling \$275,000 from a client. There was a tense family discussion over how they could repay the money.

In the family crisis, Mrs Willey decided she needed a full-time paid job and the next

day drove two hours from her home in Virginia to Washington, where she secured an appointment with Mr Clinton that afternoon.

On the same day Mr Willey was so distraught over his financial troubles he shot himself in his car. According to police reports, his body was not found until the day after the alleged encounter between his wife and Mr Clinton.

In the month after her husband's death, Mrs Willey obtained paid employment in the White House that lasted for ten months. She also served, at the invitation of the White House, on US delegations to international conferences on social development and biodiversity.

Nearly a year ago, Mr Clinton appointed her to the board of the United Service Organisation, a volunteer group that provides welfare and recreation for members of the armed forces.

The President's lawyer, Robert Bennett, denied that anything improper was ever said or done by Mr Clinton in connection with Mrs Willey. The President may have consoled her around the time of her husband's death, but it was preposterous to suggest he made a sexual advance.

Mrs Willey's lawyer, Daniel Gecker, said he will ask a judge to quash the subpoena, because she has no information relevant to the Jones case and was outraged to be dragged into it.

She "had and continues to have a good relationship" with the President, the lawyer said.

Newsweek said that Mrs Jones's lawyers wanted to use the threat of delving into Mr Clinton's alleged sex life, and the resulting publicity from it, to force a settlement favourable to their client, who seeks damages of \$700,000 (£430,000).

Mr Clinton adamantly denies Mrs Jones's claim that he exposed himself and asked her for oral sex in a hotel room six years ago.

Giuliani 'liaison' threatens love of voters

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN "INTIMATE liaison" with a City Hall aide has led Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, to the brink of divorce, according to the forthcoming issue of *Vanity Fair*.

Mr Giuliani, who is married to Donna Hanover, a television personality, is said to have had several "late-night dinners and early-morning meetings" with Cristyne Lategano, his communications director.

The mayor, 53, and Ms Hanover, 47, who have two children, are rarely seen together. Their busy lives keep them apart: Mr Giuliani is described as a "24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year" mayor; his wife is an industrious career woman. Yesterday she did not challenge the premise of *Vanity Fair's* report, stating only that her family "is deeply important and will always remain so".

However, Ms Lategano, 32, said: "Allegations by unnamed sources are not true and there is no need to comment on malicious works of fiction. When a woman works closely with her male boss, it's called intimate. When a man does the same, it's called loyal."

Despite predictions by observers that Mr Giuliani will separate from his wife after the next mayoral elections, scheduled for November, he has denounced the *Vanity Fair* report as "scurrilous" and riddled with "cheap rumours".

The mayor has reason to be upset. He is due to kick off his campaign for re-election shortly and will not relish anything that distracts attention from his substantial achievements in City Hall.

Mr Giuliani has been widely described as the best mayor New York has had. His no-nonsense methods have helped to curb crime and brought New Yorkers a quality of life they once could only dream about.

So effective has he been in



Cristyne Lategano and Rudolph Giuliani, above, have attacked reports of intimate meetings, which have not been denied by the mayor's wife Donna Hanover, below

his civic crusades that many see him as a potential candidate for President.

Mr Giuliani has denied having any White House aspirations, but in a Republican Party short on giants his is a remarkably towering figure.

His re-election as mayor in November is seen here as a foregone conclusion, with many prominent Democrats saying that they will vote for him in preference to Ruth Messinger, the liberal who is likely to be his opponent.

Recently Ed Koch, another legendary mayor and a Democrat, said that he would vote for Mr Giuliani — evidence of how his reforms have won him substantial cross-party support.

□ Father claims: The woman who falsely claimed that Bill Cosby, the comedy actor, is her father, may be the daughter of her mother's former husband, *Time* reported. Autumn Jackson, 26, was convicted last month of trying to extort \$40 million (£24 million) from Mr Cosby. (AP)



Gays say US police neglecting serial killings

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

TWO weeks after Gianni Versace's death, American gay rights activists have alleged that the murders of 30 homosexual men remain unsolved and five serial killers are still free because their cases lack the glamour and public interest of Versace's.

The killers have left carnage in New York, Virginia, Texas, Denver and Atlanta, but they have not been hunted with the zeal devoted to catching Andrew Cunanan, the suspected Versace murderer, because their victims were seen as expendable, one mother said.

"What is the difference between my son and Versace?" asked Donna Smith, whose son, Charles, 18, was one of 12 men killed in a homosexual neighbourhood of Norfolk, Virginia, between 1987 and 1994. "Money and notoriety. If you have money and fame, it is going to get solved." Mrs Smith accused the police of labelling victims such as her son "gays and druggies", so "nobody cared".

Authorities across the country have reacted indignantly to such claims, saying that the unsolved killing sprees that are now fuelling paranoia among American homosexuals are merely part of a lamentable backlog of cases in need of more resources and inter-agency co-operation.

To suggest that the police deliberately drag their feet on homosexual killings "would be a real cheap shot", said Sergeant Glen Miller, of New Jersey, who is investigating the cases of five homosexual men murdered and dismembered in the greater New York area in the early 1990s. Four of them were last seen in homosexual bars. One was found with his body stuffed in pieces into a dustbin with his head and hands left on its lid.

The allegations against the police are "like saying an agency would not investigate the death of a black person as much as they would the death of a white person," Sergeant Miller said, ignoring that this was the case in the South until relatively recently.

Chaos as strike hits American post giant

Washington: Americans were seeking other ways to send packages yesterday as a strike started at United Parcel Service — which handles 12 million packages a day — over part-time jobs, pensions and pay (Ian Brodie writes).

The Teamsters' Union stopped negotiating just before the midnight deadline. "Half a job is not good

enough," Ronald Carey, union president, said. President Clinton urged the parties to return to negotiations.

The issue of part-time jobs is exploited by many firms. Nearly two thirds of the 185,000 Teamsters at UPS are part-timers: they have no benefits but, according to the union, often work double and even triple shifts.

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Spy plane explanation of flying saucers alienates UFO spotters

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

FLYING-SAUCE watchers have attacked as "yet another deception" a newly declassified CIA document which states that virtually all the UFOs sighted in the 1950s and 1960s were spy planes.

According to the document, *CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90*, the US Air Force knew that the sightings of flying "discs", "saucers" and other objects were glimpses of the Lockheed U2 and the SR71 "Blackbird" surveillance aircraft.

The disclosure, however, has drawn derision from "UFOlogists", who regard it as a fresh cap of deception on a many-layered bundle of lies.

Richard Hall, the chairman of the Washington-based Fund for UFO Research, a

non-profit scientific organisation dedicated to an "open debate" on the subject of UFOs and extra-terrestrial beings, said: "The report contains a very poor, and very inaccurate, account of history."

"To say that all sightings were of spy planes is absurd. It perpetuates the stereotype that sightings have only been made of flashes of light in the sky. There are many reliable accounts of clear, structured objects, flying low and close to the ground. How do you explain these?"

"We're not conspiracy theorists at all. We just want to know the facts. This document is not only dumb — because UFOs were sighted well before the air force started to put U2s into the sky — it's dangerously

deceptive. It suggests that we should now stop looking for answers, which is something we're not prepared to do."

He added: "We are now even more interested in getting behind the cover-ups, which have happened since Roswell in 1947." He was referring to the alleged crash of a spacecraft and military recovery of alien bodies in New Mexico.

The document, by Gerald Haines, a historian, was written for *Studies of Intelligence*, a secret CIA journal. It says that the air force was intent on concealing the identity of the objects. A straightforward public explanation would have exposed its large fleet of spy planes — a security risk that military planners were

unwilling to take at the height of the Cold War. Instead, the air force disseminated spurious explanations, allowing UFO hysteria to grow. The air force put out the word that the sightings were simply "natural atmospheric phenomena".

The U2s, which flew at more than 60,000ft, and the "Blackbirds", which reached 80,000ft, bristled with powerful cameras and electronics. The U2 spotted Soviet nuclear arms in Cuba, which sparked the 1962 missile crisis and took the superpowers to the brink of nuclear war.

After the Cuba incident, the air force painted the silver planes black — and the UFO sightings largely ceased.

Arthur C. Clarke, page 16

California judges block execution

BY GILES WHITTELL

THE fate of a man scheduled to die tonight by lethal injection hung in the balance yesterday after an appeals court blocked his execution, saying that it would be a "manifest injustice".

Thomas Thompson, on death row in California's San Quentin prison, was convicted of raping and murdering a 20-year-old woman 16 years ago, but has steadfastly proclaimed his innocence. His eleventh-hour reprieve followed a rare weekend session of the controversial 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The panel of 11 judges, branded a "liberal clique" by Pete Wilson, the Governor of California, reversed its own earlier decision to uphold Thompson's conviction, saying he had been incompetently represented at his trial.

Mr Wilson was urging the US Supreme

Court to review the case as an emergency in the hope of going ahead with the execution as planned. Meanwhile, Thompson has become the latest cause célèbre of anti-death penalty activists.

A 26-year-old boat repairman at the time of his conviction, Thompson had no previous criminal record. He was accused of stabbing Ginger Fleischli five times in the head after raping her at Laguna Beach, but has always claimed that the pair had consensual sex after a night of drinking and smoking marijuana. A "grave question" existed over whether he had in fact raped her, the San Francisco appeals court ruled on Sunday, making the death penalty inappropriate. Under California law, only a conviction for murder with "special circumstances", such as rape, can result in death.

The main prosecution witnesses at Thompson's trial were two prison informers who claimed that he had confessed to them in jail, but whose reliability Thompson's lawyers never questioned. Nor was his jury ever told that the victim's former boyfriend claimed to have seen her and Thompson having consensual sex. They were also not told that the ex-boyfriend was himself a possible suspect since he owned a fishing knife that was never recovered after the killing.

Even death penalty advocates have sided with Thompson. "This case leaves me with a very unsettling feeling in the pit of my stomach," said Donald Heller, a lawyer who drafted the petition that reinstated the death penalty in California in 1978. Since then only four prisoners have died in San Quentin.

Disney suit goes ahead

Los Angeles: A judge has ruled that a woman's claim for damages for distress caused to her grandchildren after seeing Mickey Mouse take off his costume can go ahead (Giles Whittell writes).

Billie Jean Matay and the children, aged five to 11, were taken to staff quarters in Disneyland, Orange County, to report a robbery. There they saw the Walt Disney charac-

ters remove their costumes. One looked like a headless Mickey Mouse.

To expose children to such a brutal wrecking of their fondest illusions amounted to inflicting emotional distress, Mrs Matay's lawyers argued in a suit which was first filed in 1995.

Disney tried to have the case dismissed as "ridiculous". It will be heard on August 18.

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Gays say
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neglecting
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European chief attacks Bonn over 'Thatchers'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE European Commission yesterday launched an unusually direct attack on German politicians in an apparent attempt to scotch the growing Euroscepticism in the country. "There are too many Thatchers in Germany," said Klaus Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner. The outburst by the Dutch commissioner, in an interview with *Die Welt* newspaper, is the latest in a series of warnings from Brussels to Bonn. The Commission is evidently worried on two counts: the rising resistance in Germany to being the "paymaster" of Europe, and the threat to block economic and monetary union (EMU) in the Bundesrat, the upper house of the German parliament. "The possibilities of the Chancellor [Helmut Kohl] to play a pioneering role in Europe have been thwarted by Germany's federal state governments," said Mr. Van Miert. "Sometimes I ask myself whether some of these federal states are really part of the European Union. Some seem to have a leg outside the Union or to be virtually non-Union states, at least if you listen to their prime minis-

ters." The criticism was aimed chiefly at Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister, who is insisting on the strictest possible interpretation of the Maastricht criteria for EMU, and who forced Herr Kohl to plead in Amsterdam, against his instincts, for the retention of unanimous voting on asylum and immigration issues. But Kurt Biedenkopf, the Saxony Prime Minister, who has had earlier confrontations with Mr. Van Miert over European subsidies for Volkswagen, is also the butt of Brussels' anger. Professor Biedenkopf, representing the 16 federal German states, must have the right to veto every candidate for joining the single currency. "Economically, the euro is a good idea," says Professor Biedenkopf who belongs to Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU). "But more and more it is becoming a political currency with all the attendant risks." The professor favours a controlled delay in the introduction of the euro: a more developed European Monetary System, with fixed exchange rates, should be put into place until the Union is ready for the euro. National

central banks would retain their function during this transition period but would continue to co-ordinate policy through the European Monetary Institute. The Bonn administration has been rattled by these suggestions, as has the Commission. As an influential member of the Bundesrat, Professor Biedenkopf, together with like-minded premiers from both the CDU and the Social Democratic Party could in effect trip up Herr Kohl. The Government has been quick to point out that European leaders as a whole, not the Bundesrat, must decide who participates in the euro. But the resistance could prove much more effective than at first thought — supported by a negative report from the Bundesbank and with a possibility of an appeal to the Constitutional Court, effective barricades could be constructed against the single currency. The Government has been quietly fuelling a campaign for a budget rebate from Europe. Payments have almost doubled since unification and it is now far ahead of Britain as a net contributor. Tax battles: The CDU said yesterday it had not given up hope of getting a major tax cut through parliament this year, but the main opposition leader indicated he would continue to reject the plan. Herr Kohl interrupted his summer holiday in Austria for a special parliamentary session called by his ruling coalition to send the Government's tax Bill back to a mediation panel of both houses of parliament. The Bill had passed the lower house but was rejected last month by the opposition-dominated upper house. Government and opposition negotiators last week failed to agree on the DM30 billion (€10 billion) tax cut, seen as a test of whether Germany can adopt its welfare state traditions to harsher global competition.



Jeanne Calment thanked good olive oil for her longevity. She continued to smoke cigarettes and drink alcohol into her final decade and outlived her husband by 55 years. "God seems to have forgotten about me," she said

'Oldest woman' dies aged 122

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JEANNE CALMENT, the world's oldest person, died in Arles in the south of France yesterday, at the fabulous age of 122 years, five months and two weeks. Mme Calment, who saw the Eiffel Tower under construction and came into the world ten years after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, died at the nursing home where she has spent the past 12 years. Several rivals have claimed to be as old or even older than Mme Calment, but only she had a birth certificate, dated February 21, 1876, to prove it. Blind, almost deaf and increasingly frail, Mme Calment claimed that humour and an abundance of good olive oil

were the principal reasons for her survival. Her consumption of alcohol and cigarettes, which she continued until her final decade, gave heart to millions of French men and women. Scientists said Mme Calment's age was largely due to genetic factors, pointing out that her ancestors all had histories of longevity. Mme Calment's birthday, celebrated with chocolate cake and a lot of sweet white wine, became an annual media event in France and a source of growing national pride. October 1995 saw another burst of congratulations when she overtook the previous record of 120 years 237 days set by Japan's Shigechiyo Izumi. She left no direct descendants, having

outlived her husband by 55 years, her only daughter by 63 years, and her grandson by 34 years. But she remained comparatively wealthy, thanks to a deal with a local lawyer who agreed to pay her an annual sum for the rest of her life in exchange for her property. The lawyer, who died last year, ended up paying three times what the building was worth. "We all make bad deals in life," she consoled him, adding that "God seems to have forgotten about me". Mme Calment's death leaves Christian Mortensen, a Danish-born American, as the world's oldest person. He will be 115 on August 16.



Edmund Stoiber, left, who is strongly Eurosceptic, and Karel Van Miert, his critic in the Commission

Terracotta charioteers unearthed

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN BEIJING

ARCHAEOLOGISTS at the mausoleum of China's first emperor, near Xian, have unearthed a set of terracotta warriors different from the previously excavated army, which draws thousands of tourists each year. Unlike the foot soldiers on display, statues from pit number two ride in horse-drawn chariots or kneel to shoot arrows and lead horses, the official Xinhua news agency said yesterday. The newly excavated area, measuring 32,280 sq ft, has yielded 86 warriors and 44 horses, it said. One of China's top tourist attractions, the terracotta army, which originally was intended to protect the Emperor Qinshihuang (259-210 BC) in the afterlife, was discovered in 1974 by peasants digging a well. Each of its 6,000-odd men and horses has distinct facial features, expression and clothes. Archaeologists were quoted as saying that some of the figures in the newly discovered vault would be left in fragments, just as they were discovered. "That will impress visitors by showing them how the relics looked before being repaired," one of the archaeologists said.

Italian travellers rage as trains fail to run on time

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY'S railway network was in chaos yesterday, three days after a train derailment near Rome. Thousands of angry and exhausted passengers, many in tears, complained of exposure to searing temperatures without access to food or water during delays of up to 24 hours. "There were calls from opposition MPs for the resignation of Claudio Burlando, the left-wing Transport Minister, who said the "rage of Italians" was understandable. "I ask their forgiveness," he said. The disruption was caused by the derailment on Saturday of a regular inter-city express from Reggio Calabria, in the toe of Italy, to Turin, in the north. The train, carrying 600 passengers, left the tracks in the Rome suburb of Casilina, scattering its 14 carriages along the line. Remarkably, only six people were slightly injured. The accident, as the annual summer holiday rush was beginning, severed the main north-south railway artery, which is only four tracks wide at Casilina. The problem was compounded on Sunday, when a crane removing the carriages collapsed across the railway line. The chaos and misery resulting from the failure to clear the line has caused national outrage in a country

where the Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini — at least according to propaganda — once made the trains run on time as a mark of efficiency and modernity. "Hell on the trains, Italy cut in two" was the headline in *La Repubblica*, while *Corriere della Sera* spoke of "a revolt by passengers left under the burning sun". Most national dailies devoted four pages to what *La Stampa* called "a nightmare". "We were given no explanations, no information," said one almost incoherent man, cradling his small son in his arms as he stepped off the train from Naples at Rome's main terminal. "We were stranded in the middle of

nowhere for 12 hours, with nothing to eat or drink". A train carrying mainly elderly and infirm pilgrims back from Lourdes, arrived at Milan station nearly 24 hours late, with passengers hanging sheets from the windows with the words "Train of Shame" scrawled on them. Italy's main railway stations took on a Third World air as people waiting for trains or meeting passengers camped out. Signor Burlando said the fault lay with a postwar legacy of neglect under successive Christian Democratic governments. "Italy is 50 years behind in railway technology," he said. As the chaos eased late yesterday and some services returned to near-normal, investigators said they were still trying to ascertain the cause of Saturday's crash. State railway officials suggested the derailed express had been travelling at "an excessively high speed". But trade union leaders said the blame lay with a systematic "scaling down" of railway personnel, in which "employees responsible for safety, cleaning and maintenance are the first to go". A similar dispute is still going on over the cause of a crash in January of the Milan to Rome high-speed train, in which eight people died.



Mussolini railways symbolised efficiency

Britain joins boycott of Bosnian envoys

By MICHAEL BRYNOL
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN suspended all contact with the Bosnian chargé d'affaires in London yesterday, implementing a threat made by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, in Sarajevo last week that the West would no longer deal with any ambassador who did not represent all Bosnia. Germany said on Sunday that it would cease to recognise the Bosnian envoy, France and Sweden followed suit yesterday. At their May meeting in Sintra, Portugal, Nato foreign ministers warned Bosnia's three-man presidency that it must agree to the appointment of new ambassadors by August 1 or face a diplomatic boycott. Mr Cook reaffirmed that blunt mes-

sage in his talks with Alija Izetbegovic, Kresimir Zubak and Momcilo Krajisnik, the Muslim, Croat and Serb leaders. Yesterday he expressed regret that they had failed to meet the deadline and announced that he would therefore suspend all contact with Muslim Fasic, the charge, and would put on hold a request for a new ambassador. Bosnia now faces a series of deadlines imposed by the allies to force the former belligerents to observe the Dayton peace agreement. Carlos Westendorp, the international mediator, yesterday gave the leaders until midnight to agree common citizenship and passport laws or face possible international penalties. The Bosnian leaders were meeting yesterday to discuss the allied moves, but there seemed little likelihood that any-

thing agreed by the Muslim and Croat leaders would be acceptable to the Bosnian Serbs, who have insisted on remaining as separate as possible. Mr Krajisnik failed on Friday to appear for a meeting to discuss citizenship. "If they fail to make further substantive progress, we may feel that it is necessary ... to recommend further action be taken against them," Señor Westendorp's spokesman said. Yesterday the West condemned the Bosnian Croat police and Croat nationalists in Jajce who beat up and expelled hundreds of Muslim refugees trying to return to their homes. International organisations said in Sarajevo that they were determined to find out who instigated the riots by drunken Croats who chased the refugees away.

WORLD SUMMARY

US given soldiers' remains

Seoul: North Korea, in a goodwill gesture on the eve of talks in New York between the two Koreas, America and China, handed over yesterday the remains of four American soldiers killed during the 1950-1953 Korean War, witnesses said.

The move was followed by other conciliatory steps, including the linking of North and South Korean telephone lines. (Reuters)

Punjab toll

Islamabad: At least nine people were killed in what appeared to be Muslim sectarian shootings in the central Pakistan province of Punjab. (Reuters)

River recedes

Hohenwutzen: Water levels dropped on the River Oder for the first time since it began to threaten eastern Germany with floods three weeks ago. (Reuters)

Sea-lions listed

Wellington: New Zealand has listed Hooker's sea-lion, the world's rarest, as a threatened species. Trawlers accidentally drown about 100 every year. (AFP)

Killer model

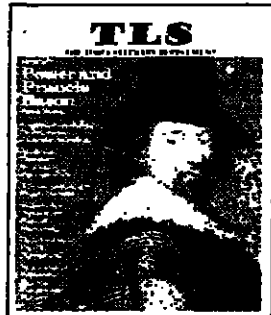
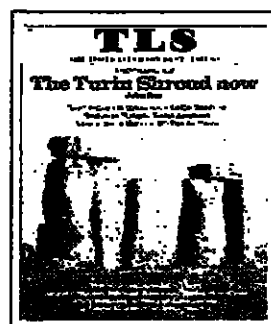
Schöpfungheim: A glider pilot and his daughter died when a remote-controlled model plane hit their craft during a display near this west German town. (AFP)

Storm force

Tehran: A storm ripped to shreds the world's biggest tent, set up near the Iran-Turkmenistan border to mark the completion of a new Silk Route. (AFP)

Telly tubbies

Cairo: About 20 women presenters on Egypt's ten state television channels have been ordered to lose weight — or lose their on-screen jobs. (AFP)



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Who would marry a bulimic?

Men who marry anorexics and bulimics fall into three categories. **Maureen Freely** reports

In the public imagination she is forever young. The closer she pushes herself to death, the more child-like she becomes — not just in the eyes of her friends and relations, but in the eyes of the law. After a ruling this week by the Mental Health Act Commission, she can now be sectioned if her doctors deem it necessary, and if she does not respond to treatment, she can also be force-fed. Even if she gets her weight back, she will still be locked inside an emotional adolescence from which even the best therapy provides no easy exit.

But life goes on, even for women with anorexia and bulimia. Many grow up to get married and have children of their own. Some are able to leave their eating disorders behind them. Often their affliction returns during times of stress. And then there are the ones who become anorexic or bulimic when they're already married.

The most famous of these late developers is Diana, Princess of Wales. In the gospel according to Andrew Morton, the trigger was a passing joke the Prince of Wales made about her chubbiness, when he tried to put his arm around her waist not long before the wedding. "Shortly afterwards she made herself sick," Andrew Morton says. "It was a profound release of tension and in some hazy way gave her a sense of control over herself." In her *Panorama* interview, the Princess described the bingeing, that came to precede the purging, as a fleeting comfort. "It's like having a pair of arms around you," she said.

Her choice of simile makes it clear how an eating disorder can feed on a troubled marriage even as it provides

intermittent relief from it. So why do we know so little about this potentially fascinating subject?

It's partly because early work on eating disorders focused on the younger women who then made up most of the patient population. When older women began to present with the same problems, there was a tendency in some quarters to treat them as exceptions. That bias does not exist any more, but there is still an uncertainty about how best to treat them.

While family therapy is still considered a must for girls under 18, many experts have qualms about over-involving an adult patient's "second" family. Deanne Jade, principal of the National Centre for Eating Disorders, is "totally against the idea" because it runs the risk of giving "too much responsibility to the partner" and can work against the aim of anorexia and bulimics becoming "their own carers and caretakers". For recovery to happen, she says, "the power has to come from the individual".

But no married woman is an island. The partners of anorexics and bulimics can play into the problem and are also affected by it. They also have their own agendas. In a new book called *Eating Disorders and Marital Relationships*, (Routledge, £14.99) Stephan Van den Broecke, Walter Vandereycken, and Jan Norré draw from existing literature to put together a disturbing composite sketch of the men who marry into anorexia and bulimia.

'It's like having a pair of arms around you'

wife being a "child-like dependent" whose life has to be an extension of his own.

Often he adds his own ingredients to the cauldron: one study of partners of bulimics found that 25 per cent had emotional or psychological problems serious enough to have required treatment. Mrs Jade (who sees many more adult bulimics than anorexics) thinks this may have something to do with the fact that many patients meet their partners at therapy centres. They don't meet people in the usual ways because they are not inclined to spend time at pubs, restaurants and parties.

Whatever the reasons, the result is that they and their partners enter into marriage inexperienced and ill-prepared. Avoiding conflict be-

The most common type (according to a study of anorexia from the mid-Eighties) is an "emotionally and sexually passive" man who hates confrontation, needs affection, and gets upset when his partner does not live up to his high ideals. When she becomes anorexic, it is almost a relief, as it gives a name to the problem and allows him to play nurse.

The second type is a man who doesn't "passively accept" his wife's illness and instead resents the way it disrupts their lives. If she makes no effort to change, he will either leave her, often for another woman, or throw himself into his work.

Last and least common is the old-fashioned patriarch-style husband who insists on his

control. He sees his wife as a "child-like dependent" whose life has to be an extension of his own. Often he adds his own ingredients to the cauldron: one study of partners of bulimics found that 25 per cent had emotional or psychological problems serious enough to have required treatment. Mrs Jade (who sees many more adult bulimics than anorexics) thinks this may have something to do with the fact that many patients meet their partners at therapy centres. They don't meet people in the usual ways because they are not inclined to spend time at pubs, restaurants and parties.

comes a top priority, and so intimacy suffers while unresolved problems pile up. It is hard to hide anorexia, but bulimics can be good at hiding their binges and purges ("especially from men" as one woman told me). This means many husbands don't have a clue. Even if they do know,

their efforts to help are not always a spur to greater maturity — as in the case of the husband who rearranged his work schedule so that he would almost always be present at meals, and did all the shopping and cooking, and even ate up all the leftovers to keep his wife from bingeing. But first prize must go to the husband who smuggled his stools into hospital and exchanged them with his wife's so that her doctors would not be able to prove she was abusing laxatives.

And then there's the sex. As a rule, anorexics and bulimics have trouble experiencing pleasure. It's the fear of losing control, according to Dr Jill Welbourne, a Bristol specialist who also works with the Eating Disorders Association. A man married to an anorexic or bulimic "may make passionate love to her" but his wife will be "dissociating" and absent herself from his body for the duration. This is not deliberate, she says. It's symptomatic.

"You have to marry your own body before you can marry anyone else. If you're seven feet above your body and three feet to the right of it, and loathing it, attacking it, you're not going to be in your body long enough to hear your husband say, 'how about bed, darling?'"

Although fertility is a problem, especially for anorexics who have stopped menstruating, those who do manage to conceive often have a great deal of trouble dealing with the physical transformations of pregnancy. Their worries about unarriving their baby lead to larger questions. One sufferer told me, about "who is feeding whom". Nutrition remains a problem area after birth and indeed throughout childhood — especially if the child is a girl and starts going in for diets as a teenager.

In other words, there's no area of the family that isn't touched by anorexia or bulimia. But women who seek professional help don't always find it helps their marriages. The prognosis depends on whether the illness began before or after she met her partner. "There's a great deal of chaps," Dr Welbourne says, "who romanticise their wives' elusive qualities, when really they're looking at starving women with a woman who is in the grip of the disease, they are falling in love with the person she is when she is ill. So when she gets better and a bit more robust, they can't cope with it and they leave."

The odds are better when the illness hits later on, as in



Andrew Morton says the Princess's bulimia provided "a profound release of tension and in some hazy way gave her a sense of control over herself"



Fiona Shaw and her husband, Hugh. "I thought telling him would give me the strength to stop."

Bulimics can be good at hiding their purges

the case of one patient who became anorexic in reaction to her second pregnancy. Her husband, a manager, "didn't like it". He was determined to understand what had struck his wife down, and so when she stopped going in for therapy, he went in her place. A year and a half later, the wife returned to resume treatment.

There are many stories, though, of husbands resenting treatment and working against it. Often they expect magic results, or else they attribute their wife's illness to "foolishness" or lack of will-power. Most speak of feeling helpless and unjustly blamed by outsiders who underestimate the difficulties of their everyday lives. This is why even experts who do not think partners should be part of treatment do concede that they need to be educated about the disease, for their own good as well as for the good of the patient, and that they, too, deserve proper support.

But any move to make marital therapy a standard part of treatment is bound to raise deeper questions about "go on being there for them" while they go through the painful process of growing and changing.

Fiona Shaw, whose much-acclaimed autobiographical

account of a postnatal breakdown, *Out of Me*, came out earlier this year, told me much the same thing. She had suffered intermittently from bulimia for years as an adolescent but talked to no one about it.

When she first told her husband, Hugh, it was because "I thought if I could name it, that would give me the strength to stop it. I was hoping that by isolating the problem, it would go away." Repeated failures meant huge shame and desperate attempts to hide the problem. It was only after she began to "understand it as part of the person I had become" that she began to do better, and that was thanks to extended psychotherapy.

Marital therapy would have been a help, she thinks. "But we couldn't have afforded it", and neither, it seems, can the NHS. Which is why I'm a bit concerned about this new interest in the sort of men anorexics and bulimics marry. In the absence of any real help, publicising the little knowledge we have about them could be a dangerous thing. It is all too easy to read about the types and say, "How sick these people are. How different they are from anyone I know. How easy, therefore, to avoid the same pitfalls."

According to Dr Welbourne, the truth is closer to home. If you're educated and middle-

class and want your children to study for their A levels, if you're good at the art of deferring, if you plan ahead, if you don't make allowances for accidental accidents, and have a hard time expressing anger, there's all too easy to fall into the pattern — or else fall in love with it. "An eating disorder, she says, "is something we're all almost into."

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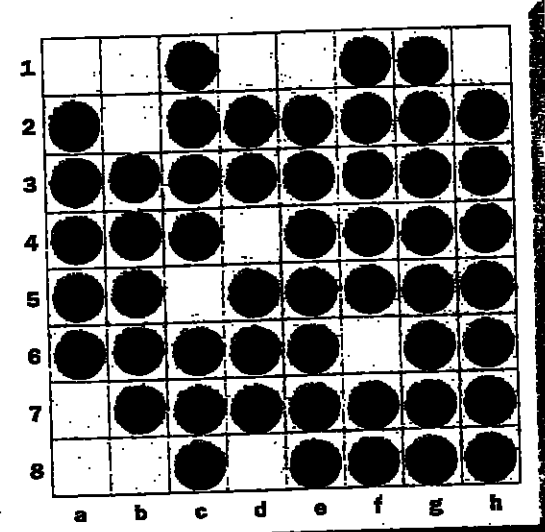
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Thus, in the diagram, if White plays at b8, the black counter at c8 becomes white. You need to calculate a few moves ahead. In the diagram, White seems up against it, but with correct play, can win. Should White play: a) at h1, flipping the counters at f1 and g1? b) at b8, turning the counter at c8? c) at b2, turning the counter at c3? d) at b1, flipping the counter at c1? Call our Othello hotline with your answer, a, b, c, or d, before midnight tonight. The winner will receive £500. Ten runners up will receive a Classic Othello game and a further 10 runners-up will receive a



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TOMORROW: PLAY BACKGAMMON FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN MORE PRIZES

John's in 1974

'I trusted her and she trusted me ... We really did love each other'

Professor Lewis Wolpert is a distinguished embryologist and one of the country's leading popularisers of science. He was born in Johannesburg, and moved to London in his early 20s. Here, he gives a poignant tribute to Jill Neville, the novelist, critic and broadcaster, whom he married in 1994 and who died of cancer in June. Rebellious and politically radical, she arrived in London from Sydney in the early 1950s. An enthusiastic hostess, she and Wolpert held some of the best parties in literary London.

She begged me never to try to write a descriptive piece about her. She once, years ago, tried to kill herself by putting her head in the gas oven, but it was so dirty that she ended up cleaning it instead.

I first heard of her when I came to London in the Fifties. There was this Australian redhead living on a houseboat in Chelsea — quite wild. We could never remember how we met but became close friends from the very beginning. When a boyfriend caused a cut to her lip she phoned me late at night to take her to hospital. I would go with her to a café on the Strand so she could watch some man she found really attractive play chess. There were stories of rival lovers throwing either her or themselves into the Thames. She moved house often and there is hardly a street in north London where she had not stayed at some time or other. Yet beneath that wild exterior I discovered a rather conventional longing for an ordered bourgeois life.

She taught me songs — she knew the words of an astonishing number and almost longed to be a nightclub singer. She complained that a few drinks and she was off. She destroyed several evenings by her insistence that everyone had to stop talking and start dancing. I naturally objected: she saw my behaviour as train-line, unwilling to try something new. But there was one thing on which we had complete accord — we could have qualified for the British sleeping team. We were also both unenthusiastic about formal dinners, which I regarded as detention for good behaviour. But we could give great, noisy parties.

In the words of a close friend she was beautiful, supremely amusing and very, very kind and had an extraordinary bent for friendship. For one friend, researching a book, it was her willingness to go on adventures to men's strip clubs. Another, much younger, felt that Jill had changed her life by making her feel lovely and teaching her where to put lost love. One saw herself as the curator of a Jill Neville Museum in the form of a train with many carriages, and she helped an old friend get over his writer's block with daily letters. She even overcame her resistance to modernity and became dependent on a word processor.



There was this Australian redhead living on a houseboat in Chelsea — quite wild. We became close friends from the very beginning



Neville and Wolpert: disagreed about everything

From her mother Jill inherited her speediness. I never understood just how she managed to devour a meal so quickly, elegantly, almost by magic. Boyfriends at restaurants were horrified to see expensive dishes vanish. She had strong views which she never hesitated to express, and loathed any fashionable movement, particularly if it smelt of political correctness. She inherited from her colonel father some of his steely qualities that spread into an intellectual integrity. That was never more in evidence than when she knew that she was dying and behaved with unbelievable dignity and stoicism.

Jill was a romantic, with intense sensitivity to everything around her. She stopped listening to the news as she could not bear to hear

about human cruelty; it made her very depressed. Factory farming, she thought it was a monstrous thing at which I was hopeless. When I came back from the event she wanted to know the details, what it was really like, some feel of the people. I always

disappointed her. Were she here she would laugh, she always did, at my refusal to listen to her advice yet again. But then we disagreed about everything. People were often shocked at the apparent violence of our discussions. But then we were both impatient, speedy colonials, who never quite learnt the niceties of English conversational restraint.

sun. She believed in a holistic organic existence — natural healing and the power of the mind over the body. In a way, she annexed all sensitivity so that there was nothing left for me. I became the arch reductionist scientist who was, as she said, the lord high contradictor, and who only saw the body as a machine. Somewhere she believed in the soul. Even when depression overtook her, somehow her natural

we had complete accord — we could have qualified for the British sleeping team. We were also both unenthusiastic about formal dinners, which I regarded as detention for good behaviour. But we could give great, noisy parties.

paradoxical. She needed praise, since she saw her upbringing, and indeed mine, as those of unlicked cubs. Yet at the same time she loved her body, her own presence, and was a fool to flatterer's pursuit. How else could she have married two previous disastrous husbands? She lied consistently about her age and everyone thought her at least ten years younger — they were even somewhat irritated when the obituaries revealed she was 65. She would have been furious that the truth was out.

We were happiest at her cottage in Normandy. She had bought it on a romantic impulse. It was little more than a cow's hotel but in lovely countryside and she transformed it into a magical place. While we had visitors, what she liked best was for me to work in the mornings and for her to dream and write and then go to the coast for

lunch. Dreaming was an essential part of her life, something I never understood. Why could she not go to her desk and write, like me? What was all this waiting for the inner dream to speak?

Her novels and poems came out of those dreamings. What she felt about writing and poetry comes out in the speech she gives Robert Graves in her play about him and Laura Riding. "How can it mean so much? Poetry is the purest mystery. Look, when a poem is about to be born — the air changes, everything goes still ... Where it springs from God knows, but gradually the whole bright semi-circle of light expands; then you look down the page, the poem is written, revised and revised again — the words are living and the language itself is revived, and the poem will go on sending out its mystery and energy and glory into the future, into people strange in ways we cannot imagine, but who will be amazed how close to us they

feel. Genius is the only true godhead. Love is astonished always. So is the new-born poem ... it proves that the world isn't just a pile of faeces after all."

She would spend much time in conscious dreaming and reflection. I would interrupt her and ask, to her irritation, what she was thinking. "I am doing sevens," was a typical reply. This meant she was going through her life seven years at a time. She could tell exactly where we had been during any period of our 15 years together.

When I fell ill in California a few years ago, she insisted that we get married when I returned. She wanted to be sure that when I died she would be more than just someone at the funeral. And during my depression she prevented me from committing suicide by promising to help me in a year's time if I was not better. I knew I could trust her. And she knew that she could trust me. We really did love each other.

The latest fashion victims — boys

Children are giving street cred to the elite symbols of their parents, says Jane Gordon

There was something particularly striking about the holiday pictures of the Blair family that appeared in newspapers over the weekend. Not Cherie's hair, or Tony's jeans or even little Catherine's pretty floral frock.

What struck a chord with parents across the country was the way in which the two Blair boys were dressed. In a display of self-labelling that is becoming endemic among the emergent generation, Ewan, 13, and Nicholas, 11, wore bold sweatshirts emblazoned with the legend POLO, and POLO Ralph Lauren.

Alongside the first step, the first tooth and the first words, today's young have added a new developmental milestone — the first item of designer clothing.

Where previous generations of adolescents have rebelled against the established order by creating their own movements that have spawned a definite and original uniform from the winklepickers and draimpie trousers of the Fifties teddy boys to the spiked hair and safety-pins of the Seventies punks — the young of the Nineties have, instead, borrowed the elitist status symbols of adults and given them street credibility.

In a trend that crosses the class spectrum and reaches out along the length and breadth of Britain, young people are wearing the kind of labels their parents only ever



A new developmental milestone epitomised by Tony Blair's sons on holiday in Tuscany — the first item of designer clothing

dream about — Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Versace, Armani, Moschino.

Not, of course, the expensive and discreet couture creations of these designers but the cleverly marketed — and often terribly obvious — sports ranges that are just about accessible to the spoilt child on a pocket money budget (£25-£40 for a T-shirt, £75-£125 for a sweatshirt, £100-£150 for jeans).

What is particularly interesting about this phenomenon — perfectly illustrated by the Blair family picture — is the fact that it is more likely to be

boys and not girls who are keen to brand themselves as fashion victims. It is the sons and not the daughters of my friends who are insisting on wearing DKNY, Tommy Hilfiger, Paul Smith, YSL.

The girls, while occasionally being lured by a pair of logoped trainers, are as happy with the cheap high street brands such as Top Shop and Miss Selfridge as they ever have been. But from the age of about nine or ten the boys are becoming more and more obsessive about the importance of wearing the right labels.

One friend of mine — a single mother on a limited income — was astonished when her 15-year-old son demanded a pair of £65 Gucci loafers for his birthday. It was as if, she said, the possession of these shoes would give him almost magical powers. Like Dorothy's red slippers in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Indeed, in rather the same way that my five-year-old son gains confidence from wearing his favourite Superman dressing-up suit, so the older boy bolsters his own self-esteem by adopting labels that he perceives to be — as they

might say — as well safe as the play costume of the superhero. The psychologist and writer Dorothy Rowe confirms that, for young males, items of designer wear can, in effect, be empowering.

There are a number of reasons why the present generation of young males are wearing these boldly logoped designer clothes, and one of them is that they might feel that those labels have a kind of magical property. The more helpless you feel the more you need magic," she says.

"The words Ralph Lauren written in huge letters across

your chest might well have the same effect for a boy approaching adolescence as the big S of Superman does for a five-year-old."

Rowe suggests that one of the other reasons that boys have a greater need than girls to possess expensive designer clothing might be linked to their dramatic sociological changes that have taken place in the past decade.

"Men and boys have only ever really been engaged in one thing — competing with each other. And in a world in which they cannot be guaranteed employment and in which there are no longer wars, clothes might represent one of the few areas left in which males can openly compete," she says.

Moreover, the emergence of Girl Power — however cynically you might view the Spice Girls — has meant that young females now have far stronger role models than their male counterparts and a far stronger sense of their own identity.

"There is no doubt that boys today need more props because they cannot rely on the myth of macho power," says Rowe, "and, of course, on a more basic level these clothes are probably part of the age-old courtship thing."

"Young boys might be wearing these clothes because in saying Ralph Lauren or Calvin Klein or Versace, they are also saying I have got money and girls are always attracted to money. Money means power."

In truth, as no doubt Tony and Cherie Blair already know, what this awful trend really says is "my parents have got money". Or more accurately, "my parents would have money if they didn't spend all their disposable income on me".

TOMORROW



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Rumours of a genre's demise continue to be exaggerated; the fathers of Impressionism get their due; gallery round-up

Fruit and veg still speaking volumes

Richard Cork admires the major New York show of still lifes heading for the Hayward Gallery

In an era dominated by speed, violence and dynamic change, the still life might easily have been pushed aside by restless 20th-century artists. After all, its quiet pleasures seem to belong to an earlier, more contemplative age. What point could there be in scrutinising a few household objects on a table when the modern world's energetic excitements clamoured for attention?

Against the odds, though, still life has continued to fascinate even the most audacious innovators. So important did this unlikely subject become that still life images are firmly lodged at the centre of modernism. Only now, though, are they being explored in a substantial international exhibition.

Objects of Desire is the beguiling title chosen by Margit Rowell, chief curator of drawings at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the paintings she has assembled include some of the most delectable in European art. If the show is equally well installed when it travels to the Hayward Gallery this autumn, London is in for a treat.

Cézanne occupies a place of isolated honour in the first space, with a magisterial still life executed a few years before the present century began. Endowing his fruit, ginger jar and eggplants with a grandeur at once incontestable and unforced, he persuades us that these ordinary objects are as

noble as the imperious Provencal mountain presiding over so many of his landscapes.

But there is danger in Cézanne as well as stability. The ginger jar has been tipped forward, as if seen from a different vantage. As for the apples and pears, they are clustered on a plate so tilted that they seem likely to fall off the edge. Even at this stage in the show, stillness is already being challenged.

After the Cubists encountered Cézanne's work, they made the objects in their studios more agitated. In a 1908 painting, Picasso placed a human skull on a pink and orange tablecloth pierced by thrusting lines. A framed Cubist nude presses forward from the shadows at an uneasy angle. Even the artist's palette becomes a symbol of aggression, bristling with brushes as menacing as knives.

Less than a year later, Picasso appears to restore order in a cooler, more refined painting of a fruit dish. But the table rears up at a vertiginous angle, and around the same time Braque turned a similar dish into a swirling mass of splintered forms. The traditional solidity of the still life was breaking up.

Leger shows the fragmented apples and bananas sliding down a table no longer able to keep them steady. Rather than plummeting to the floor, however, they end up floating through space in later Cubist

paintings. The pedestal table in Braque's great 1911 canvas from the Pompidou Centre is more up-ended than ever. But the slivers of musical instruments seem to hover mysteriously above it.

A similar sense of weightlessness is achieved in Matisse's work during the same period. Matisse, however, did not share the Cubists' passion for angular austerity. He rejoiced in colour at its most sumptuous, and his *Spanish Still Life* allows leaves and flowers to merge with an ornamental cover on the sofa behind.

At this point, the survey's appetising title is triumphantly borne out. No pears and bananas could be more edible than the ones heaped so temptingly within the bowl Derain painted in 1912. The yellow flowers suspended so

mysteriously in Redon's mystical pastel appear to be drifting through the night sky. And Matisse's purple cyclamens seem to be offered up to us like an enticing gift.

But the enchantment could not last. Picasso brings the exhibition back to everyday reality by incorporating a "found" spoon in his painted *Glass of Absinthe*. And Duchamp went further, brazenly declaring in 1913 that a bicycle wheel mounted on a painted wooden stool had every right to be considered a work of art.

After the protracted trauma of the First World War, the still life lost whatever vestiges of innocence it might previously have possessed. Around 1921 Miró turned his table top into a potential charnel-house. The rabbit perched on its jagged surface may be alive at the moment, but a nearby fish seems ominously inert. They

both look like sacrificial victims, waiting to be consumed, and the glass phials clustered in Hannah Hoch's gleaming canvas might well be intended to serve some sinister, clinical purpose.

Soutine replaced such alarming suppositions with brute fact. His visceral painting of a beef carcass, suspended in the abattoir and still smeared with blood, restored the still life to its centuries-old role as a memento mori. The wildness of Soutine's brushwork conveys the full extent of his anguish, and Ensor performs the astonishing feat of making a giant red cabbage take on a monstrous identity. Surrounded by clown-like masks, who leer and thrust their noses into its burgeoning leaves, the cabbage threatens to engulf the fruit and flowers assembled beside it. Here, in 1928, this reclusive Belgian painter seemed obsessed by the malignancy and predatory power of the natural world.

Plenty of viewers dismissed him as an ageing crank, but a decade later Ensor's vision did not seem so eccentric. Appalled by the civil war in his native country, Miró conveyed his horror by placing an old shoe, a bottle and some broken bread in a setting haunted by shadows and flashes of flame. It is as if a Spanish peasant had abandoned his possessions in a deserted field, and the fork puncturing an apple suggests that he might not have survived his enemy's assault.

As the century proceeded, so

the still life proved surprisingly adept at reflecting the unrest, destruction and tragedy unfolding around it. When the Second World War began, Dali summed up the gathering despair by placing a useless black telephone receiver on a dish with three grilled sardines. Beyond, a nightmarish black hill looms over a trio of vulnerable, childlike figures in an arid landscape.

Picasso, marooned in Nazi-occupied Paris, chose a skull and accompanied it with a twisted, harshly scored pitcher. But some fully grown leeks form an unexpected link between these two gruesome objects, suggesting that Picasso held out hope for new life as the struggle with Hitler neared its end.

After such intensity, the more recent sections of the show seem more celebratory. Pop art revels in consumerist excess, scavenges society's trash-cans or, in the case of Jasper Johns, wittily casts Ballantine Ale cans in a carefully painted edition of two bronzes. The last image to confront us is Domenico Gnoli's *Without a Still Life*, a meticulous painting of an empty table. But everything else in this seductive and disquieting survey suggests that the still life, in all its guises, will never go away.

Objects of Desire opens at the Hayward Gallery in London (0171-923 3144), sponsored by BMW in association with The Times, on Oct 9



Picasso's lifelong passion for the still life is well represented in New York, beginning with the Cubist years and extending to his *Still Life with Skull, Leeks and Pitcher*, from 1945

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

LIKE many of her generation (she was born in 1919), Prunella Clough went through a period of romantic realism before moving gradually to abstraction, and there are many who find an intensity in her art of the late 1940s and early 1950s that dissipated later. Hence her paintings seemed completely at home in the 1988 Barbican exhibition *A Paradise Lost*, which celebrated the complex delights of the Neo-Romantic movement in Britain.

On that occasion her pictures were hung close to those of David Carr (1915-1967), and a certain kinship could be seen. Now a new show compares and contrasts just these two artists, and tells something of their extraordinarily close professional relationship. The period covered is 1945 to 1964, and shows the early work of both artists off to perfection. Carr begins painting rather like Lowry, moves towards Clough and then slightly away again. Clough has the advantage of always being unmistakably Clough.

Austin/Desmond Fine Art, Pied Bull Yard, 68/69 Great Russell Street, WC1 (0171-342 4443) until Aug 14

THE subject-matter of Jean-Marie Toulgoat — beds of flowers and sun-drenched fields — resem-

bles that of his step-grandfather, Monet. But his approach is unmistakably individual. Frequently his paintings border on abstraction, eliminating the horizon altogether to become more a colour field than a literal field full of colour. The paintings are entirely celebratory, of life, love and the senses.

Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, W1 (0171-499 0860) until Sept 4

IN THE new exhibition *A Cloudburst of Material Possessions*, subtitled *A Fantasy on a drawing by Leonardo da Vinci*, 19 artists as varied as Peter Doig, Stephen Farthing, David Mach, Paula Rego, Michael Sandle and Boyd Webb respond in their own ways to the Queen's Leonardo drawing of the sky deluging the land below with pots and pans and mundane objects of all sorts. Some go for the deluge itself, many consider what the ground would look like after the storm. Every single one seems to have been genuinely inspired to create something individual and unpredictable.

Purdy Hicks Gallery, 65 Hopton Street, SE1 (0171-401 9229) until Sept 6

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Came to scoff, stayed to pray

Glasgow raids its vaults to provide John Russell Taylor with a fresh view of the birth of Impressionism



Zenobia found by shepherds on the banks of the Araxus (1850) by the virtually forgotten Paul Baudry

A classic curator's nightmare is to have a nice, neat, crowded schedule suddenly burst open in the middle, leaving a gaping hole that requires a major exhibition, and no time to put one together. What can be done? The best move is to peer into one's own icebox to check how effectively it can be raided.

That is precisely what Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries have done to fill the vital summer season at the McLellan Galleries, the city's mid 19th-century pride and liability. What must have struck any visitor with eyes for 19th-century art are the extraordinary riches amassed by contemporary Glasgow collectors, and in due course gifted or bequeathed to the major public collections. Because primarily of the dealer Alex Reid, Glasgow was probably the earliest place in Britain to appreciate the full splendour of Impressionism in flower. But before that the Impressionists' immediate predecessors, the painters of Barbizon and more isolated figures such as Courbet, found ready purchasers in Glasgow.

Thus one could see on display in Glasgow painters such as Millet and Daubigny, Monticelli (who exerted a decided influence on Van Gogh), and Bastien-Lepage, who for a while influenced everyone, when they were so desperately unfashionable that few other galleries would give them wall-space. And that was only what could be readily seen: what hid in the vaults was anyone's guess. So what more natural than that Glasgow should follow up the recent spate of Impressionist shows with a show about the world

into which the Impressionists had to force their way?

The *Birth of Impressionism* starts with the high academic works of not only Ingres, the leader of the pack, but also virtually forgotten painters whose finest hours were spent like Baudry's and Dela-

nay's decorating the Paris Opera, or, like the Flandrin brothers, turning their hand to classical myth or saccharine hagiography as the market forces of the salons dictated. The effect is rather unexpected: so brilliant is the draughtsmanship and the

sheer painting technique of these academic artists that one suspects many who come to scoff will remain to pray.

Next come Millet and his fellow landscapists of Barbizon. Millet himself emerging as a master of atmospheric lighting, particularly at dusk. But the real novelty of the show comes in the next room, where a whole huge wall is devoted to reconstructing the effect of an official Paris Salon around 1880, when the Impressionists were just about to move centre-stage in the Paris art world. Artists such as Dore (not the greatest painter, for all his brilliance as an illustrator), Monticelli, Troyon with his inevitable cows in pasture, military specialists such as Charles Louis Kratke and Georges Louis Hyon, and Adolphe Weisz, whose special field was people going to or coming from church. There is variety and eccentricity and even, yes, good old-fashioned aesthetic satisfaction.

There is also enlightenment about exactly what the Impressionists were up against. The final rooms show us, dazzlingly, what they did about it. Scotland is able to show off with wonderful Boudins, Sisleys and Cézannes from the Burrell Collection, great Monet and Pissarro paintings from the National Gallery in Edinburgh, and some less familiar riches from Scottish private collections. There are impressive loans from Chicago, New York and Boston. But basically the show is home-grown — although you would never guess unless you read the labels very carefully.

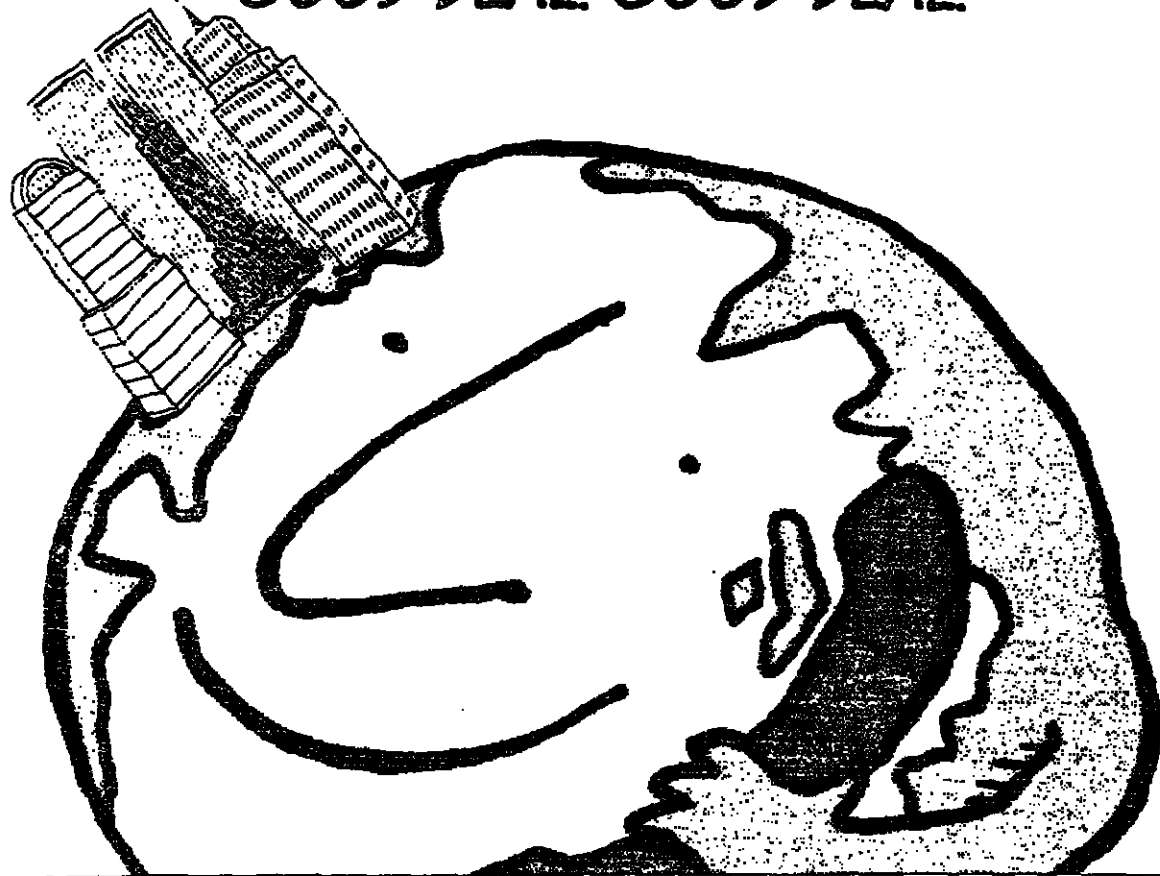
McLellan Galleries, 270 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (011-332 6677), until Sept 7

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AUGUST 5
Gays say
JS police
neglecting
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killings

Third time even luckier

Opera

Handel's *Didymus* is by tradition the proper choice for critics, enthusiasts, and anyone who is considered a bit of a snob. But I find it impossible to remain detached in the face of Glyndebourne's staging of Handel's *Didymus*. It is the third outing, substantially revised, it packs a punch that leaves you reeling. It is not so much the singing, the conducting, the production, all of them quite outstanding as the way all three conspire to reveal the bewitching extent of Handel's genius.

How could he have invented, via instinct rather than reason, a whole



Daniel Taylor (*Didymus*) and Joan Rodgers (*Theodora*) excel in an outstanding production of sublime Handel

new musical-dramatic form—a utopian meta-theatre of the heart and mind—as the director, Peter Sellars, puts it in his programme essay. A good century ahead of his time? How could he have written with such wisdom and compassion about belief, doubt, oppression, protest, self-sacrifice, in terms that speak so clearly to us as today's headlines? And how could he have been so even-handed in his treatment of the conflict, in those hushed, averted closing bars that leave audiences in stunned silence, aware that there are no easy answers, save within each individual human heart? It is a simply astonishing work.

Sellars has returned to revise the staging. New are the presence of men in suits, in the Christian community, and the taking of a collection at the point where property is distributed as the "souper of the vicarage," both suggesting research among certain congregations in 18th-century London. "The Peace" is as much in evidence as in the papers recently, but the Rites of Venus have been toned down, rightly and perhaps ironically. As to whether Sellars's depiction of the Romans as a larger-than-life, cannibal-drink society is

as even-handed as Handel's cheerfully hedonistic music, well, you have only to look around you.

The American conductor Daniel Beckwith takes a slightly more romantic view of the score than his predecessors, emphasising the sheer beauty of the music without risking descent into the merely religious. The playing of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is beyond all praise. As for the new cast (the third), snap swings-and-roundabouts judgments would be insulting; they all rise heroically to the challenges that Handel sets them.

Joan Rodgers's full-toned, creamy lyric soprano is ideal for the title role, and while she spins Handel's long lines with innate eloquence, there is an equally eloquent flutter in her tone to suggest that bat-squeak of doubt at the edge of her certainties. Jean Rigby's gentle, plushy mezzo is as well suited to Irene, keeper of the Christian conscience—her momentary loss of faith at the start of the third act is soul-searing.

Any fears that David Daniels, on earlier duties as Nero in Munich, would be missed prove groundless: the young Canadian Daniel Taylor is another of that new generation of

DONALD COOPER

To stage or not to stage? I rather suspect that radio producers had the better deal at the weekend, when two seasons of music theatre took to the Albert Hall stage somewhat diffidently.

Putting on half a show

BBC PROMS

musical. Without visual distraction, the ear could catch the skill of duets and ensembles such as *A regular royal Queen* and *In a contemporary fashion*, especially when sung by the likes of Jamie MacDonnell (Marco) and Rosemary Joshua (Gianetta), and played with the urbane finesse of the BBC Concert Orchestra under Barry Wordsworth.

Gilbert's shameless sending-up of the very idea of an egalitarian utopia seemed, for a retrospective moment, almost obscene in the light of Kurt Weill's anguished and disillusioned dreams of a brave new world in his *Mahagonny* Songspiel and *Seven Deadly Sins*, Moscow, conducted by Anne Manson, were entrusted with recreating these works. But both the musicians and John Abulafia, directing, had their work cut

out for them on a Sunday afternoon in the Albert Hall. A set of six contemporary German cabaret songs was supposed to set the scene and cunningly introduce the group of outsiders who would set out for Mahagonny. A late-night Prom, with darkness, a steamed-up audience would have been the obvious time and place. As it was, a sparse and sober afternoon, an under-exploited arena and the presence of classically trained singers for the most part unused to this repertoire made the world of the Überbrett seem hopelessly distant.

The songs hung dark in the air. *Mahagonny* struggled with some whimsical and literally disjointed directorial ideas as arms and legs were discovered in suitcases and the cast, for all their antics, failed to engage in the idiom, and therefore with their audience. Abulafia's long-term thinking became evident, and stronger in detail, as the cast travelled with Weill to the United States in *The Seven Deadly Sins*. The schoolgirl-wail (Kate Fenwick) who had haunted *Mahagonny* with her balloon boy became Anna II, the counterpart of the exploitative "sister", Anna I, magnificently sung by Marie McLoughlin.

Slo-mo singalong

POP

A rare live performance by Massive Attack, in London's Finsbury Park on Saturday evening left the audience in a dilemma. Fans of the Bristol based band, which was headlining an all-day dance festival, had to choose either to cram into a tightly packed tent, from where it was impossible to see the stage, or snatch some space by one of the exits. This, however, meant enduring an aural assault as strains of big beat techno, hardcore jungle and soulful drum and bass from surrounding stages competed with Massive Attack's slo-mo cinematic songs.

Added to the overcrowding, a 20-minute technical hitch at the start of Massive Attack's set left the band to contend with an audience understandably difficult to please. A weak opening number didn't help. Reggae legend and long-time Massive collaborator Horace Andy emerged from a shroud of dry ice to mumble over a squalling guitar solo.

The moment, enigmatic frontman 3D and Daddy G appeared on stage to rap their way through *Karmacoma*, however, the mood changed. For the first time all day, the audience got the chance to sing

along to lyrics, and Massive Attack made it easy to participate. Long gone are the group's days as a simple sound system, when vocalists sparred over samples and scratching. The addition of keyboards, guitar and—most importantly—live drums had replaced the floaty feel of the band's recorded output with a harder, techno edge.

The remainder of the 90-minute set mixed former hits *Daydreaming*, *One Love*, *Eurochild* and *Hymn of the Big Wheel* with down-tempo dub courtesy of Andy. The show should have ended after a superb *Unfinished Symphony*, as the less memorable tracks which followed simply served to subvert the audience.

OPERA & BALLET

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THE ROYAL BALLET 0171 344 4444

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MUCKING OUT THE BYRE

Labour most needs reform in its own backyard

August is the cruelest month for the Labour Party. In summers past there have been brushfires of dissent while Tony Blair has been on holiday but in every case the damage was containable, the memory of discontent fading with the Mediterranean tan. This summer could, however, be different, not least because Labour is in Government and expectations high. Lord Simon's perceived conflict of interest and Robin Cook's marital difficulties are very different matters. The first is a genuine cause for public concern, the second is a source of private sorrow with no bearing on Mr Cook's discharge of his official duties.

Both, whatever the merits of the matter, dent Labour confidence but both are passing squalls compared to the concern aroused by the death of Gordon McMaster. The circumstances surrounding the death of the late member for Paisley South grow increasingly disturbing. His suicide is a private tragedy, but it also raises questions of legitimate public interest. The picture emerging of the Scottish Labour Party is not an edifying one.

The picture that we have of the Parliamentary Labour Party's reaction is not particularly reassuring either. Several of Mr McMaster's colleagues knew of his difficulties but the Whips' Office in which he served does not seem to have played the pastoral role that it might. Moreover, the Labour authorities have only agreed to an inquiry into the unhappy circumstances of Mr McMaster's death after a newspaper revealed some of the contents of his suicide note at the weekend. Did they know of the note's existence, and its contents, before? If they did, why did they wait for press reports to emerge before initiating an investigation?

There is a prima facie case for an inquiry. The MP was the victim of a whispering campaign as well as a debilitating disease and those rumours sprang from the unweeded garden that is the Labour Party in the West of Scotland. In a battle for political supremacy in Paisley, where Labour's authority is unquestioned, solidarity became a forgotten virtue.

After the corruption allegations which tarnished Monklands Council, the revelation that Glasgow councillors were being investigated for bartering votes in return for junkets and the unhappy story of Mohammad Sarwar's alleged bribery, the last thing the party needed was another scandal. The Scottish Labour Party has sought to portray each of the problems afflicting it as an isolated matter but their frequency and severity points to a deeper malaise.

The same complacency and arrogance which infected the Tories after too long in power at Westminster seems to have spread to the Labour Party in Scotland. The root of the problem lies, perversely, in Labour's past success in Scotland. Mr Blair's transformation of his party has proceeded more slowly north of the border. In England, Labour had to transform its ideology and its image to reach out to lost voters. That process involved facing down the corrupt and the crackpot in English redoubts such as Lambeth and Liverpool. Since the Scottish party was moderate and, more to the point, electorally successful, reform seemed less pressing. Even though it has been Scots such as Gordon Brown and Alastair Darling who have been in the vanguard of New Labour the Scottish party has, in more than one sense, been left behind.

The case for action is now, however, overwhelming. Labour in Scotland, sure of electoral dominance, has treated local authorities like feudal holdings. In five weeks' time Scots will be asked if they wish the Labour Party to create another layer of government which it, in turn, expects to dominate. Many Scots will ask if those Labour will choose to run a Scottish Parliament will be of the same calibre as those who ran Monklands, run Glasgow and operate in Paisley. The thought that there will be new jobs for those particular boys is hardly an incentive to support devolution. Labour must show, and quickly, that it is serious about cleaning up the mess in its kailyard if it is to justify the faith Scotland's voters have placed in it so far.

BURIED BOUNTY

A new law should better protect our hidden treasures

Twenty-two Roman gold coins, some minted as late as AD461 when the Roman legions had already been withdrawn from Britain for two generations, were unveiled yesterday at the British Museum. The hoard, found in West Sussex and "seized to the Crown" by a Chichester coroner last month, is as historic as the evacuation which it chronicled. For it is almost certainly the last time that the ancient law of "Treasure Trove" will be invoked. From next month this remaining piece of medieval legislation, thought an anachronism in the world of computer-controlled archaeology, will be replaced by a new Treasure Act. It is perhaps a pity that, in order to better protect our buried history, we should lose Treasure Trove as part of our verbal and legislative heritage. The archaeological end, however, justifies the modernising means.

Under the law of Treasure Trove, anyone finding gold or silver beneath the ground had to surrender the treasure to a coroner's jury. If there was evidence that the hoard had been buried for safekeeping with the intention of later recovery, it was forfeit and handed over to the Crown; if, however, it had been buried in a grave or merely lost, the finder was the keeper. The law, however, became increasingly difficult to administer. It entailed deciphering the intention of the person who buried the treasure.

The new law sensibly abolishes the need to interpret the motives of men long dead. Instead, it defines treasure as anything having more than 10 per cent gold or silver and anything more than 300 years old. Not only coin will now be subject to reporting

requirements; ancient pottery and other objects with historic value are also included. Explaining the workings of the new Act, Mark Fisher, the Arts Minister, said that rewards would still be paid to finders, and these would, for the first time, be extended to the owners of the ground yielding the riches. Failure to declare a find, however, would incur stiff penalties: a fine of £5,000 or three months in jail.

While the law now takes full account of today's technology, research and archaeological understanding, its application depends on goodwill and compromise. The main aim must be to engage the willing co-operation of treasure hunters. Banning all metal detectors would be pointless; it would only encourage subterfuge and night-time prospecting. Instead, amateurs should be encouraged to co-ordinate their hobby with local museums and archaeological societies; any find should be generously rewarded, and, if it is subsequently claimed for a museum, proper acknowledgement should be made to the finder. Sleuths who disturb subterranean sites or destroy vital archaeological evidence should, however, pay substantial fines. And those who roam unlicensed across private land should be subject to the penalties of the law of trespass.

Britain has one of the richest and most meticulously documented histories; the evidence still lying under the soil is emerging at the rate of two million objects a year. History should not be the subject of court wrangles. The Roman, Saxon and Celt are under the ground, but what they left behind can still dazzle and amaze.

FLYING ECONOMY

The Mars mission proves prudence pays in space exploration

Sometimes the direct approach pays off. After many years of devoting taxpayers' dollars to costly space missions planned to the last gold-plated nut and washer, the US space agency NASA has decided it wants quicker, cheaper and better results. When last it went to Mars more than twenty years ago, Viking cost several billion dollars. Mars Pathfinder, which bounced and juddered to a halt on the Martian surface a month ago, has cost less than \$200 million.

The hardware has operated nearly flawlessly; more so indeed than the human beings controlling it from the Earth. Some of the problems have a familiar ring: Unable to make a modern work, the engineers turned it off and then turned it on again; always worth a try with an obstinate computer. It worked, though nobody seems to know why. Other problems included a bug in the software, and errors by ground staff that disrupted communications. But despite these minor upsets, the lander and the rover have sent back volumes of data for analysis. All the mission's science and engineering targets were met four days before the 30-day primary mission drew to a close, and NASA opted to shut down both rover and lander for two days, to allow solar cells to recharge weakening batteries.

Among the most intriguing findings have come from a rock dubbed Barnacle Bill. Its composition bears uncanny similarities to Earth rocks produced by volcanic activity.

Such high-silica rocks back home are generally the product of eruptions fed by the sinking of the tectonic plates of the Earth's crust. This was a process hitherto believed unique to the Earth. A geologist could quickly tell whether Barnacle Bill is truly Earth-like by splitting it open with a hammer and looking for the fine-grained structure of a lava. Alas, this was beyond the capabilities of Mars Pathfinder. Other rocks so far analysed have turned out to be covered by dust and weathered minerals, or to consist of a material more like solidified soil than rock. To resolve these issues, the scientific team is hoping that Mars Pathfinder will get back to productive work as soon as its brief holiday is over.

The real mystery of Mars, meanwhile, remains unsolved. Exactly one year ago a NASA team declared that it had found evidence of life in a meteorite from Mars. The claim provoked an argument which Mars Pathfinder was never designed to resolve, but the philosophy it embodies means that such a resolution is possible at a manageable cost. There is even a chance that Europe could be the first to an answer, if an imaginative plan to use Russian instruments on board a European Space Agency spacecraft called Mars Express comes to fruition. Before that, the arrival in Mars orbit next month of another American spacecraft, Global Surveyor, will keep the Red Planet in the headlines.

Britannia's fate under review

From Rear-Admiral C. B. Williams

Sir, Having been involved with HMV Britannia's initial technical problems, and also having been in charge of her refits for a number of years, I am delighted that the Government is having a rethink about her future (reports August 4).

The ship's hull is sound and good for many more years. The number of her crew is excessive for a modern ship but this could be dramatically reduced by removing the antiquated boilers and steam turbines and replacing them with diesel-electric propulsion and bridge control of the engines.

No modern design could replace the vessel's lines and profile of this splendid vessel.

Yours faithfully,
C. B. WILLIAMS,
16 Montserrat Road,
Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.
August 4.

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, Well sink me, new Labour, old Britannia! What a golden opportunity missed for a brand-new, prestigious British-built ship, showing the world we can still lead in maritime technology. Costing of renovations has always been hazardous and I forecast that the £50 million quoted will inevitably exceed the £60 million price of a new vessel.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT VINCENT,
Dilly House,
Wildhern, Andover, Hampshire.
August 4.

From the Minister without Portfolio

Sir, You report today that I have always been determined that HMV Britannia should be saved and that I was a "key figure" in brokering a solution to make it possible.

Aside from the fact that such a solution has yet to be found, I have played no role whatsoever in any formal or informal discussion of the matter and I have no intention of doing so. Your correspondent could easily have checked this with me when he spoke to me before he wrote his article. But then, to do so might have spoiled a good story.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MANDELSON,
Cabinet Office,
70 Whitehall, SW1.
August 4.

Changes at Radio 4

From Mr Andrew Coker

Sir, While welcoming the changes Mr James Boyle proposes for the Radio 4 schedule (reports, July 31) may I recommend a further refinement — the dropping of needless amateur dramatics in its entirety.

As if pantomimes, plays, revues and films performed in the village were not enough we now have a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with its play within a play.

Actors playing countryfolk acting: could anything be more ridiculous?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW COKER,
42 Watlington Road, N19.
August 1.

From the Controller of Radio 4

Sir, Sir David Naish, the President of the NFU, expressed disappointment that the extended Saturday edition of *Farming Today* was being scrapped (report, July 31). It is not. The Saturday programme has been extended further to 50 minutes and remains at its 6.10am placing. It may well broaden its agenda, but will continue to be produced by the Birmingham Rural Affairs Unit.

During the consultations before announcing the Radio 4 changes it became clear that *Farming Today* is valued as the voice of the countryside. The programmes on weekdays and weekends will build on that reputation and I will be urging the programme teams to bring their expertise and sharp journalism on farming, food and the environment to the wider Radio 4 audience.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BOYLE,
Controller, Radio 4,
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House,
Portland Place, W1.
August 1.

From Mr Jack Nelson

Sir, Alfred Hitchcock once calmed a soul-searching Bergman with the words "It's only a movie, Ingrid". Regarding Radio 4, dare I suggest it's only the wireless?

Yours sincerely,
JACK NELSON,
8 Moreton Drive,
Staining, Blackpool.
August 1.

Simple statement

From Miss Margaret Sweetnam

Sir, My latest "up-dated" bank statement replaces debit and credit with paid out and paid in. Is this the ultimate "dumbing down"?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET SWEETNAM,
9a Rutland Gate, SW7.
August 3.

Fields for housing: green or brown?

From Mr Alan Fulford

Sir, Whilst profoundly disagreeing with the more extreme interventionist housing policies advocated by Libby Purves ("Britain's killing fields", July 29), I believe that some Government intervention in the market is inevitable if we are not to terminally deplete our scarcest natural resource — land.

Brownfield sites, however much anathema to developers, can largely satisfy our foreseeable housing needs if the Government is properly committed to a preference for them over greenfield sites. Workable compulsory purchase powers, financial incentives and tax breaks for private-sector investors and landlords, and a move away from the taboo on medium and high-rise developments in any urban setting: these are some of the positive forces for adjusting the market focus in favour of brownfield sites.

Most importantly, a positive Government commitment to the much-heralded integrated transport policy — rather than the current negative campaign against road building — will deliver the potential for the creation of attractive urban environments. For the Government simply to surrender to the housebuilding lobby, in the manner proposed by Nick Raynsford, MP, would be a crime against future generations, providing yet further evidence that, for new Labour, no part of our heritage is sacrosanct.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN FULFORD
(Chartered building surveyor),
18 Lodge Lane, Prestwood,
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.
August 1.

Devolution schemes in perspective

From Mr Drummond Hunter

Sir, In his anxiety to ensure that every step taken in regard to the proposed Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly should, as we Scots say, be absolutely "perjink" (Anglice, neat and tidy), Mr Andrew Rowe, MP (letter, July 28), has surely gone too far. The referendums in Scotland and Wales will merely decide whether the Scots and the Welsh want their own democratically elected bodies.

These bodies can be established only as a result of a vote in the House of Commons.

So far as the Scottish parliament is concerned, I believe that it is the only way in which to make the 1707 Treaty of Union work in a modern context.

Yours etc,
DRUMMOND HUNTER,
Secretary,
Scottish Health Planning
Council, 1974-84.
As from: Dunragh House,
Salen, Ardnarmurchan, Argyllshire.
July 29.

From Mr Adrian McMenamin

Sir, Of course, we know that Parliament will legislate following assent to the proposals in the referendums. That reflects the Labour Party's decision to listen to the views of the people of Wales and Scotland at last. That the people of England are content with such proposals is surely demonstrated by the crushing defeat

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

Sir, Contrary to Libby Purves's assertion, the last Administration did not "aim to keep three-quarters of new homes in urban, or brownfield sites". That figure was in fact suggested last February by the independent Round Table on Sustainable Development.

What the Conservatives did do last year was to publish a Green Paper on household growth which referred to the existing target of achieving 50 per cent of all new residential development on previously used land, and sought views on the value of a 60 per cent target. The current figure, it seems, arises simply from the realisation that this target meant 40-50 per cent of new homes would not be built on brownfield sites.

We are still considering the 700 responses to that Green Paper; no final decisions have yet been taken, and we do not expect to make any for some time. I would also point out that most of the growth in households projected in the next ten years is already accounted for in existing regional planning guidance and development plans.

I have always emphasised the importance of quality of life for everyone, whether in towns or the countryside. Rather than a cause for alarm, that should be an aim with which everyone can agree.

Yours sincerely,
NICK RAYNSFORD,
Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions,
Eland House,
Bressenden Place, SW1.
July 30.

suffered by the anti-devolutionary party — Andrew Rowe's party — at the recent election.

Before that election the Conservatives devoted huge effort to warning the people of England, Scotland and Wales of the dire consequences of devolution. It is to their great credit that they were to dismiss such ludicrous claims so comprehensively.

It will do Mr Rowe and his colleagues no credit at all if they choose to ignore this recent history and pretend that the Government's devolutionary schemes are part of some secret plan revealed only after the election.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN McMENAMIN,
62b Oakfield Road, N4.
July 28.

From Mr K. E. Martin

Sir, Your report, "What Scottish home rule will mean" (July 25), includes a list of areas of authority which "will remain with Westminster".

I note that between "medical ethics, including abortion, equality legislation" and "nuclear safety" there comes "the UK Senior Salaries Review Body".

Well done, Sir Humphrey.

Yours faithfully,
K. E. MARTIN,
Meadowbank, Bagthorpe Road,
East Rudham, King's Lynn, Norfolk.
July 25.

who are orthodox, will wish to affirm.

I know from past experience that the taking of the Oath by witnesses as well as defendants in law courts attracts very little attention, even from magistrates. Yet when a religious Jew wishes to affirm then interest is greatly aroused and with it an avoidable suspicion. All oath-taking is a religious act which sadly, I feel, is now totally out of place in a court of law.

The booklet's main sources of reference include *The Penguin Dictionary of Religions* (1984), but not Jewish religious authorities. Need I say more?

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN ORDMAN,
15 Wellington Road,
Fallowfield, Manchester.
August 4.

Expanding horizons

From Dr K. Speakman

Sir, Richard Branson's proposal to provide Virgin customers travelling in his new A340-600 aircraft after 2002 with beds, private rooms, pubs and showers ("Virgin to launch hotels in the sky", *Business*, August 2) will be a wonderful advance for some.

However, I think most air travellers, and certainly those of us over six feet tall, would find an additional three inches of legroom a more urgent priority.

Yours sincerely,
K. SPEAKMAN,
39 Whitmoor Crescent,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.
speakma@btm.net
August 3.

Business letters, page 27

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Flurry inside an operating theatre

From Dr Christoph Lees and Dr Martin Lees

Sir, A senior surgeon has been suspended for letting a 16-year-old on work experience hold a retractor during an operation (report, August 2). Has everyone gone mad? A consultant surgeon of many years' standing should presumably be capable of judging whether someone is fit to play a very minor part in assisting an operation.

Did any harm come to the patient? Was there even the slightest possibility of such harm? Every day medical students with very little clinical training perform exactly the same function under close supervision in operating theatres.

Furthermore, suspension of a surgeon can cause immense disruption to patient care and be very expensive to the NHS Trust. Suspension should be a last resort; too often, we believe, it is invoked because of perceived media pressure.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPH LEES,
MARTIN LEES,
29 Cressy House,
Queen's Ride, Barnes, SW13.
August 2.

From Mr C. W. Graham-Stewart

Sir, Your front page today makes much of an incident in which a youngster gained work experience in an operating theatre.

Holding a retractor during a routine surgical operation is no more complicated than holding a journalist's pen and notebook whilst he scratches his head trying to think up something to brighten up the front page.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. GRAHAM-STEWART
(Retired consultant surgeon),
Redburn, Evanton, Ross-shire.
August 2.

Jak and the Irish

From Mr Louis Kirby

Sir, Your otherwise excellent obituary of the cartoonist, Jak, said that his "disgust at IRA violence... seemed sometimes to translate into blind hostility to the Irish as a race".

As a former Editor of the *Evening Standard*, and as a close friend, I know beyond any doubt that his "blind hostility" applied only to the IRA.

At the Press Council hearing over the cartoon mentioned in your obituary, I presented the *Standard's* defence against the complaint mounted by Ken Livingstone, resulting in a victory for the newspaper.

The Press Council accepted that Jak and the *Standard* had nothing but good feelings towards the peaceable Irish community, many thousands of whom were of course, as now, its readers.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS KIRBY
(Editor, *Evening Standard*, 1980-86),
22 Moreton Terrace, SW1.
July 30.

Screen idol

From Mr Robert Kee

Sir, Your obituary of Rosalie Crutchley (July 31) is a rather bald affair — "she was accounted a beauty in her day" must qualify bleakly as runner-up for the Faint Praise Award of the year.

You make no mention of her regular appearances at the Oxford Playhouse in the late 1930s, when she was a star attraction for many undergraduates, including

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KEE,
82 Cumberwell Grove, SES.

Animal rights?

From Mr A. J. Conybeare

Sir, Your report (July 30) that the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill would make it an offence "to allow a dog to pursue, injure, attack or kill wild mammals". How can I explain this to my Jack Russell who is a great little ratter?

Yours etc,
A. J. CONYBEARE,
Old Vicarage,
Woolhope, Herefordshire.
August 1.

Word perfect

From Mr Colin Lester

Sir, "Ordinate" is surely the right substitute for "computer-literate" (letter, August 2), since so many of us are subordinate to these machines — except for hackers, of course, who are in-subordinate.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. LESTER,
47 School Road,
Upwell, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.
August 4.

From Mr C. W. Morle

Sir, My son has a word for the computer inexpert: "Dad".

Yours truly,
C. W. MORLE,
Brook House, Woodhill Avenue,
Cerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
August 1.

OBITUARIES

THE REV PROFESSOR ULRICH SIMON

The Rev Professor Ulrich Simon, former Dean of King's College London, died on July 31 aged 83. He was born on September 21, 1913.

The long shadow of Auschwitz fell across Ulrich Simon's life as it did across the lives of most German Jews of his generation. Few of them turned to Christianity as a way to cope with the evil of Nazi persecution, but Ulrich Simon became a convert, and in his 33rd year he confronted the suffering of his people in the book for which he is probably best known, *A Theology of Auschwitz* (1967). His own father had been murdered in Auschwitz, and in prose of tragic intensity Simon wrestled with the problem of evil in the light of the religion he had embraced many years earlier. It was the haunting memory of the suffering innocent as much as his own personality that produced his tragic vision of life. He abhorred equally the superficiality of contemporary secular society and the banalities of modern religion. Nothing satisfied him that was not profound in both conception and expression: the chamber music of Haydn and Beethoven, Dante's *Commedia* and Goethe's *Faust* were his touchstones of humanity. At the same time he admired comic genius, especially of the zanier kind: the films of the Marx brothers gave him particular delight. Comedy as well as tragedy, Faust as well as Lear, could point the way to the deeper understanding of humanity.

Ulrich Simon was born in Berlin. His father, James, was a fine musician. His mother, Anna, could quote long passages from Nietzsche and was fiercely progressive in her views. The

boy grew up in a lively and cultivated household, and was educated at the Grunewald Gymnasium. He later recalled the great musicians of the day visiting the house: Otto Klemperer, Bruno Walter and Erich Kleiber. Sometimes figures from the world of literature, such as Thomas and Heinrich Mann — also appeared. A few streets away lived Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his family.

His parents had never practised their ancestral religion, and Ulrich was hardly aware of his Jewishness until the rise of anti-Semitism forced the issue upon him. As the political situation worsened in the early Thirties, he and his mother left Germany — she for Switzerland, he for England, crossing the Channel on April 1, 1933. He was never again to see either his father or his brother, both of whom "disappeared" during the war. The early years of his life are vividly described in his one-act autobiographical book, *Sitting in Judgment* (1978).

Simon's passionate search for truth led him in a strange direction for a German Jew: to King's College London to read for the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1935, followed by a period at Lincoln Theological College and ordination into the ministry of the Church of England in 1938.

After curacies in the dioceses of Southwark and St Albans, he returned to lecture in Hebrew and the Old Testament at King's College in 1945, and remained in the world of the university until his retirement in 1980. He was appointed Reader in Theology in 1959 and in 1971 a Chair of Christian Literature was created specially for him. For two years he was also Dean of King's College, a post he filled with notable, if idiosyncratic, distinction until 1981, when he was succeeded by the present

Bishop of Oxford, Richard Harries.

Undergraduates were spell-bound (and sometimes mystified) by his approach to the interpretation of texts or the exposition of dogma. The most obscure biblical passages and the most abstruse theological speculations would be illuminated by illustrations from the music of Bach or the poetry of Hölderlin.

His books began to appear in the late 1940s, each stamped with the distinctive visionary qualities of his imagination. It is for books such as his *Theology of Crisis* (1948), *Theology of Salvation* (1953), *Heaven in the Christian Tradition* (1958) and *The Ascent into Heaven* (1961) that he will be widely remembered.

He was often irritated by the administrative chores of institutional life, and, when he became Dean of King's, he depended greatly upon the efficiency of his secretary. His eyes, like those of his beloved Dante, were set on the stars, and he was often suffused (again like Dante) with a kind of righteous anger at the follies of mankind.

Meetings of the faculty were occasionally interrupted by explosive outbursts in which he denounced the stupidity, mediocrity and small-mindedness of those who could not see as far or as deeply as he did. He could be an uncomfortable as well as a stimulating colleague, and a disturbing as well as a loving friend.

Towards the end of his life he became increasingly disenchanted with what he saw as the vulgarisation of Christian worship and the trivialisation of Western culture. More than ever he turned for solace and inspiration to the great masters of music and literature.

He is survived by his wife, Joan, and by their daughter and two sons.



FELA KUTI

Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, Nigerian singer and political activist, died of an AIDS-related illness on August 2 aged 58. He was born on October 15, 1938.

A FLAMBOYANT singer of international acclaim and an outspoken political opponent of successive military governments in Nigeria, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti mixed music with social criticism, and revelled in being a thorn in the side of the authorities. Known to his fans simply as Fela, he also won a reputation for smoking marijuana, sleeping with hundreds of women and dressing only in his underpants.

As one of the earliest and most vocal post-colonial activists, he influenced many through his music, and in Lagos he commanded a militant following among the poor and dispossessed.

He was one of five children. Their father was an Anglican cleric and ran a rural grammar school in Abeokuta, a small town in Ogun province, western Nigeria. Their mother also worked at a grammar school, and she was the first to sow the seeds of Fela's political activism.

This was nurtured when he came to Britain in 1960 to study music at Trinity College in London, where besides singing he played the piano and trumpet and met his first wife, a Nigerian. His years in London opened his eyes to the social neglect in his native country, and when he returned to Nigeria in 1963 he formed the Koola Lobitos band.

His early music was high-life jazz, and his songs were critical of the rich and the growing neglect of roads and other amenities. His political focus was sharpened in 1968 by a tour of the United States with his band. He met members of the Black Panther movement and was exposed to the writings of Malcolm X. Subsequently his music evolved into Afrobeat, a mix of jazz and more traditional African music, and his pan-Africanist advocacy shone through his lyrics.

By the early 1970s he was on his way to stardom with records that pulled no punches in criticising military rule in Nigeria, highlighting the brutality and corruption of the country's leaders and singling out individuals for particular criticism. Inevitably this led to confrontation with the authorities, and in 1977 he had a

spectacular clash when soldiers stormed his house in Lagos. His mother was thrown from a second-storey window and died six months later from her injuries. Fela received a severe beating that resulted in a broken leg and arm, leaving him unable to play the saxophone.

His confrontation with the authorities reinforced his growing legend as a champion of the people and a crusader for human rights. In 1979 he formed a political party, the Movement for the People, and he was urged to run for president, but the party was disqualified from elections. It was around this time that he persuaded his brother Beko Ransome Kuti, a doctor, to enter the political fray. He assisted Beko, who became president of the Nigerian Medical Association, to organise doctors' strikes, and later his brother formed the human rights organisation Campaign for Democracy.

In 1981 Fela received another beating from troops using rifle butts, and afterwards he told family members that he felt as if his body had left him. Subjected to continued harassment, he was detained several times and imprisoned. In 1984 he was jailed for 18 months on trumped-up charges before being freed after the judge admitted having been under pressure from the State.

His political fire dwindled in the final two years of his life, even though his brother Beko had been imprisoned by the military strongman Sani Abacha and was being kept in solitary confinement. Fela was said to be disillusioned because the changes he had fought so hard for had not materialised. He stayed mostly at his home in Ikeja, a working-class district in Lagos, and gave infrequent performances at his club, the Shrine. He would smoke marijuana on stage and the weed could be purchased, ready rolled, on the premises.

Earlier this year he was held by the drugs squad, which said it hoped to reform his character and wear him off marijuana. There was uproar when he appeared on national television in handcuffs, and officials released him, admitting defeat.

During his heyday Fela changed part of his family name from Ransome to Anikulapo, which means "one who keeps death in his pouch". He is survived by 27 wives and three children.



ANDRE GIRAUD

André Girard, former French Defence Minister and head of the country's atomic energy commission, died in Paris on July 27 aged 72. He was born in Bordeaux on April 3, 1925.

ANDRE GIRAUD'S lifelong dedication to French grandeur was second only to that of his hero General Charles de Gaulle. He was twice a cabinet minister and was even considered a possible prime minister, had Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and not François Mitterrand won the 1981 French presidential elections. Girard exercised his greatest influence as a lifelong and ardent defender of French independence, be it in energy, industry or defence. He was the incarnation of the engineer from a *grande école* turned technocrat, or what the French

call *un grand serviteur de l'Etat*, a term used by both Right and Left to describe him.

At different periods he was in charge of national oil policy, ran the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique, with its massive programme of nuclear power stations and its close connections to the military, and was a free-spending Defence Minister before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Then, and later, he defended both National Service and nuclear testing in the Pacific, two pillars of French policy that have since been removed. He never held an elected office, for he was a proud, even arrogant, man who operated best in committee rooms rather than on the hustings.

Girard's father was administrator of a lycée, and his upbringing was strict. He had early thoughts of a career in the navy, but the scuttling of

the French Fleet in Toulon in 1942 affected him deeply. He called it a national humiliation. It turned him overnight into a passionate adolescent Gaullist and made him think again about his future career. He entered the Polytechnique *grande école* in 1944 and was in the same class as Giscard d'Estaing, a future ally. He also graduated later from the Ecole des Mines.

After the war he rose to senior positions within the Ministry of Industry's oil division and at the Institut Français du Pétrole, working with the state oil companies to obtain the best deals after the loss of the Algerian oil fields in 1962. (He also found time to be vice-president of the Renault car firm.) He ensured that Paris had petrol during the political and social upheavals of May 1968.

After running the oil sector, Girard moved in 1970 to the nuclear field as head of the atomic energy commission (CEA). He found the CEA in bad shape. Relations were tense with Electricité de France (EDF), industry in general and with the military. Girard established both order within the commission and close co-operation with formerly hostile organisations; he himself joined the board of EDF.

When Raymond Barre, Prime Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing, named him Industry Minister in 1978, Girard reiterated his firm belief that "technical progress is the principal instrument of social progress". It was a difficult three-year period, with crisis in the French steel industry, the second oil shock and growing objections to the national nuclear policy.

Opposition to nuclear power was brushed aside, although Girard did order work on alternative energy sources, and encouraged energy saving and high-tech industries. His

outspokenness was tinged with authoritarianism and, combined with his confidence in his own intellectual ability, led to frequent rows with oil company chairmen and other ministers. Girard was short, dapper and sported a small moustache. He always considered himself a leading member of the French elite and did not hesitate, during the political cohabitation of the mid-1980s, to speak his mind in the strongest terms to President Mitterrand on questions of national security and French interests.

Before that, however, there was the defeat of Giscard d'Estaing and the arrival of Mitterrand at the Elysée in 1981. Girard became Professor of Geopolitics at the new Paris-Dauphine University, but he also joined several boards, and continued to be a force behind the scenes.

In 1986 Jacques Chirac, then Prime Minister, made him Defence Minister. Rarely has a holder of the post found such great favour with service chiefs. He ordered Lafayette frigates for the Navy, paid for a naval version of the Rafale fighter, modernised the Plateau d'Albion intercontinental missile site in Provence and approved studies of the M45 missile with its lorry-borne ramps. Conservatives and Socialists voted for this military budget, but after 1990 and the fall of the Berlin Wall, Girard's annual 4 per cent increase in defence spending was abandoned.

The Socialist's return to parliamentary power in 1988 saw his departure from active politics, although he joined the boards of several large companies, including GEC, wrote articles on the need for French independence (the opposed French participation in the Gulf War) and ran the alumni associations of the *grandes écoles*.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

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BRUSSELS A DEAD CITY

From a Belgian Correspondent

Belgians who were in Brussels during the first weeks of the German occupation, and have since succeeded in escaping to neutral countries, state that the absence of transport and raw materials prevents any return to normal economic life in Belgium and Northern France.

Hundreds of bridges have disappeared, and the wooden structures which have taken their places are not strong enough to bear trains or motor-cars, except at a snail's pace. Traffic on the canals is also painfully slow on account of the obstructions caused by debris from wrecked bridges, and many railway and canal routes are entirely unusable.

Brussels, formerly so lively and gay, has become a dead city, according to these informants. Trams do not run after 9.30 p.m. and few cars are to be seen as the military authorities have requisitioned many and petrol is difficult to get. Motor-tories no longer of use for the army have been resold by the Germans to commercial and industrial firms, who use them for goods transport. Food has been severely rationed and there is destitution everywhere. Anyone who has cash available buys articles of prime necessity

ON THIS DAY

August 5, 1940

Not for another four years, after the city was liberated by the Allies in September 1944, did Brussels come alive again

whenever he has the chance. Most of the cafés are open, but when Germans enter the Belgian customers fall silent and soon begin to leave, one by one, without waiting to finish their drinks. It is evident, however, that the Germans have received instructions to show politeness and even kindness on every occasion. With an ostentation which makes the Belgians laugh, the Germans give up their seats in the trams to old or infirm passengers, and in the streets they are to be seen giving cigarettes to beggars. Occasionally the German authorities announce that they have arrested a German soldier who failed to show respect to civilians, and the

guilty man is paraded through the streets with manacled wrists.

When the German troops pass by the Belgian public look the other way. There was a great military review in Brussels, outside the Royal Palace, some days after the Belgian Fête Nationale, but few Belgians turned out for it. In spite of the hatred felt towards the invader, however, the Belgians will need even more courage than in the last War if they are to preserve their faith and hope.

They are finding it hard to explain the swift defeat of their army and especially to account for the catastrophic collapse of France. They are so mistrustful of German propaganda, that they suspend judgment on a great number of questions, but the fact that King Leopold III, in retirement in his chateau at Laeken, near Brussels, regards himself as a prisoner and does not treat with the invader, supports their morale.

Several Brussels theatres have reopened and turned themselves into music-halls. They are frequented only by Germans and the less desirable elements among the city population. Honest citizens meet in little groups behind friendly doors, and it is already clear that intellectual as well as political activity will be carried on underground.



Choose your fantasy team

HOW TO PLAY

- You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
- You must pick 1 GOALKEEPER, 2 FULL BACKS, 2 CENTRAL DEFENDERS, 4 MIDFIELD PLAYERS, 2 STRIKERS, 1 MANAGER.
- You must not exceed your budget of £35 million. You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club. If after a real-life transfer, you find you have three players from one club in your team, you must sell one of them. No player may be picked twice.
- Players and the manager must be chosen from Interactive Team Football category lists, which include code numbers and values.
- Your players and manager will accumulate points in all 1997-98 matches in the FA Premier League, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from Saturday August 9 onwards.
- The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like whenever you like. Readers entering a mini-league should tick the box on the application form. There is no additional charge.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

POINTS AWARDED

- GOALKEEPER**
- Keeps clean sheet (per half)** +3 points
 - Saves goal +20 points
 - Saves penalty +1 point
- FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER**
- Keeps clean sheet** +3 points
 - Saves goal +4 points
- MIDFIELD PLAYER**
- Keeps clean sheet** +1 point
 - Saves goal +3 points
- STRIKER**
- Saves goal +2 points
- ALL PLAYERS**
- On winning side +1 point
 - Appearance† +1 point
 - Scores hat-trick +10 bonus points
- MANAGER**
- Wins +3 points
 - Draws +1 point

** Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points
† Must have played for 75 minutes in the match † Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

POINTS DEDUCTED

- GOALKEEPER**
- Concedes goal -2 points
- FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER**
- Concedes goal -1 point
- ALL PLAYERS**
- Sent off -3 points
 - Booked -1 point
 - Concedes penalty -2 points
 - Misses penalty -1 point
 - Scores own goal -1 point
- MANAGER**
- Team loses -1 point

TRANSFERS

Each team entered by August 9 will be allocated 60 transfers for the season. Thereafter the transfer allocation will be decreased by 3 transfers each week up to September 13 when all teams registered on that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after this date will be allocated 20 transfers for the season. Full details of how to transfer will appear in *The Times* regularly when the season starts on Saturday August 9.

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

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 - BY TELEPHONE: 0891 405 011 (UK)**
+44 990 100 308 (Republic of Ireland)
- Select your team and follow the simple step-by-step instructions. Tap in the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your chosen players and manager. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). Finally you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN). Calls cost 50p per minute. Each call lasts about eight minutes.
- BY the Internet**
ITF is available on *The Times* website (www.the-times.co.uk). The Internet version enables you to enter the game and play for the entire season, giving you access to league tables, fixture lists, player reports and your team history.
 - BY LineOne**
You can enter ITF free on LineOne. This includes all transfers and checking throughout the season. For your software which includes one month's free membership of LineOne plus ten hours' access to LineOne and the Internet call 0800 111 210. For more information visit the LineOne website at www.LineOne.net.
 - BY Sky Sports Interactive**
Play ITF with Sky Sports Interactive on 0891 770 700 (calls charged at 50p per minute). Details on Sky Text page 118.

£100,000 WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE WON



HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

QUERY NUMBER: 01582 702720

TEAM NAME _____ (Up to 16 characters)

Goalkeeper _____

Full back _____

Full back _____

Central defender _____

Central defender _____

Midfielder _____

Midfielder _____

Midfielder _____

Midfielder _____

Striker _____

Striker _____

Manager _____

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

First Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Daytime Tel _____

Cheque / PO No. _____

This year ITF will incorporate separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.

☐ ITF League ☐ Women's League ☐ Student League ☐ Youth League (Under 18)

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX)

1. 18-24 ☐ 2. 25-34 ☐ 3. 35-44 ☐

4. 45-54 ☐ 5. 55-64 ☐ 6. 65+ ☐

How often do you read *The Times*?

Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐

How often do you read *The Sunday Times*?

Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐

Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

FOR FAX ENTRY, FILL IN CREDIT CARD DETAILS BELOW

Fax your entry to: UK 0660 600 563
Outside UK +44 171 649 1726

Credit Card Number _____ Expiry date _____

Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card _____

(Supply address of registered cardholder if different from above)

Signature _____ Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Daytime Tel _____

* Calls cost 50p per minute

THIS IS NO FANTASY

- FREE Entry to The Times Interactive Team Football 1997*
- One month's FREE membership of LineOne.
- 10 hours FREE access to LineOne's minute-by-minute football news, and the Internet.

When it comes to playing The Times Interactive Team Football you can see that LineOne puts you ahead of the game. Not only does it give you all the latest results and match reports from Sky, but also all the news, commentary and analysis from *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and the Internet.

Through LineOne you can also chat to your competitors and seek the views of other football fans. You can even set up LineOne to bring you all the information about your own team as soon as it is available.

Who knows? With access to all this football information, winning the title might just become a reality.

Call for your FREE trial of LineOne and the Internet now on 0800 111 210



*One FREE on-line entry via LineOne including all transfers. This is worth £9.

0891 405 011

am £50,000 champions



Schuster: worth it?

Le Tissier

Spry: Shrewsbury's star

Wenger: best manager?

The new season is upon us, and so is your chance to play Interactive Team Football (ITF) in the hope of winning £50,000. Rarely has a season promised so much, with prizes of dazzling talent from all around the world performing on the British stage.

To match the excitement, ITF returns with a bigger and better game. The Times, in association with LineOne and Sky Sports Interactive, is offering you the chance to show your football knowledge by selecting a team from the best players in Britain - those in the FA Cup, Premiership and the leading clubs in the Bell's Scottish League. That expertise will be rewarded with a £50,000 prize for the winning team, plus £10,000 for the second prize and £5,000 for the team coming third. Then a further £1,000 goes to the selector of the best team of the month (plus a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and Premiership tickets).

Then there is the new FA Cup prize. Every team entered into the ITF league

SEVEN GOOD REASONS TO PLAY ITF

- £100,000 worth of prizes to be won
- New FA Cup league with a prize fund of £10,000 for the winner, with automatic inclusion and no extra work or cost
- New mini-leagues for women, students and young entrants with separate monthly prizes and overall prizes of trips to the World Cup for each league winner
- 60 transfers with more flexibility for more control over your team
- Special hat-trick bonus introduced
- Revaluation of players: the value of players will go up and down through the season so, with careful selection, you can juggle your funds to buy more top names
- Easy to enter six different ways (post, fax, telephone, Skytext, Internet and LineOne)

will automatically be entered into the FA Cup league. Points scored by your players in FA Cup matches will be entered both in the main ITF league and in the special FA Cup league. The winner of the FA Cup league will be awarded £10,000.

That is not all. New this year are three special mini-leagues running concur-

rently with the ITF league: a Women's League, the Mitre Students League and the Dairy Crest Youth League for under-18s. The winning team in each category will win a trip for two to the World Cup in France next year. Monthly prizes of Premiership tickets, Mitre footballs and sports bags will also be awarded in each league for the manager of the month.

THIS YEAR'S ITF PRIZES WORTH £100,000

MONTHLY PRIZES

Each month the ITF league will award a pair of tickets to the Premiership game of your choice for the month. The winning team will also receive a pair of tickets to the FA Cup game of your choice for the month. The winning team will also receive a pair of tickets to the FA Cup game of your choice for the month.

TOP LEAGUE PRIZES

Winners of the ITF league will receive a pair of tickets to the FA Cup game of your choice for the month. The winning team will also receive a pair of tickets to the FA Cup game of your choice for the month.



Teams of the World Cup England v Brazil in June. Mitre League champions will go to a match in France next summer

Code	Name	Team	Price
10101	Jim Leighton	Aberdeen	2.0
10201	David Seaman	Arsenal	5.0
10301	Mark Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.0
10401	David Watson	Barnsley	1.0
10501	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	8.5
10601	Keith Brannigan	Bolton Wanderers	1.5
10701	Stewart Kerr	Celtic	4.0
10801	Ed de Goey	Chelsea	3.0
10901	Steve Ogilvie	Coventry City	1.5
11001	Carlo Nash	Crystal Palace	1.0
11101	Kevin Miller	Crystal Palace	2.0
11201	Mark Pope	Derby County	1.5
11301	Stef Dykstra	Dundee United	3.0
11401	Ian Westwater	Sheff Wed	1.0
11501	Neville Southall	Sheff Wed	2.0
11601	Gilles Rousset	Sheff Wed	1.5
11701	Chris Reid	Hibernian	1.0
11801	Dragoje Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.0
11901	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	3.5
12001	Kasey Keller	Leicester City	2.0
12101	David James	Liverpool	3.5
12201	Peter Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.0
12301	Scott Howie	Motherwell	1.0
12401	Shay Given	Newcastle United	4.0
12501	Andy Goram	Sheff Wed	5.0
12601	Kevin Pressman	Sheff Wed	2.5
12701	Alan Mait	St Johnstone	0.5
12801	Mark Taylor	Southampton	1.5
12901	Ian Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
13001	Ludek Mikulski	West Ham United	2.0
13101	Neil Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
20201	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	3.0
20301	Nigel Winterburn	Arsenal	3.0
20401	Steve Sheehan	Aston Villa	3.0
20501	Alan Wright	Aston Villa	8.0
20601	Simon Grayson	Aston Villa	2.5
20701	Fernando Nelson	Aston Villa	2.0
20801	Nicky Eaden	Barnsley	0.5
20901	Neil Thompson	Barnsley	0.5
21001	Graeme Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
21101	Jeff Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
21201	Patrick Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
21301	Neil Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
21401	Robbie Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
21501	Tommy Boyd	Celtic	3.5
21601	Toch McKelvey	Celtic	3.5
21701	Jackie McNamara	Celtic	3.0
21801	Don Petrus	Chelsea	4.0
21901	Celestine Babayaro	Chelsea	2.5
22001	David Burrows	Coventry City	1.0
22101	Brian Borrows	Coventry City	1.0
22201	Marcus Hall	Coventry City	1.5
22301	Dean Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.5
22401	Marc Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.0
22501	Kevin Muscat	Crystal Palace	1.5
22601	Chris Powell	Derby County	1.0
22701	Dean Yates	Derby County	1.0
22801	Andy Hutchinson	Everton	2.5
22901	Earl Barrett	Everton	1.5
23001	Terry Phelan	Everton	1.5
23101	Gary Locke	Hibernian	1.5
23201	Dylan Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.0
23301	Gary Kelly	Leeds United	2.5
23401	David Robertson	Leeds United	2.5
23501	Mike Whitlow	Leicester City	1.5
23601	Steve Guppy	Leicester City	1.5
23701	Stig Inge Bjornaby	Liverpool	4.0
23801	Jason McAteer	Liverpool	4.0
23901	Denis Irwin	Manchester United	3.5
24001	Gary Neville	Manchester United	3.5
24101	Phil Neville	Manchester United	3.0
24201	Steve Watson	Newcastle United	2.0
24301	Warren Barton	Newcastle United	1.5
24401	John Berrisford	Newcastle United	3.0
24501	Stuart Pearce	Newcastle United	3.0
24601	Alex Cleland	Rangers	3.0
24701	Stalle Stensness	Rangers	3.0
24801	Patrick Boudreau	Sheff Wed	2.5
24901	Ian Nolan	Sheff Wed	2.0
25001	Jason Dodd	Sheff Wed	1.0
25101	Francis Bonell	Southampton	0.75
25201	Simon Charlton	Southampton	0.75
25301	Clive Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
25401	Justin Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.0
25501	Julian Dicks	West Ham United	3.0
25601	Andy Impey	West Ham United	1.5
25701	Ben Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.0
25801	Kenny Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.0
25901	Alan Kimble	Wimbledon	2.0

Code	Name	Team	Price
30101	Brian O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.0
30201	Tony Adams	Arsenal	3.5
30301	Martin Keown	Arsenal	3.5
30401	Gilles Grimandi	Arsenal	2.0
30501	Garrett Southgate	Aston Villa	3.5
30601	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.5
30701	Arjan de Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.0
30801	Adrian Moses	Barnsley	0.5
30901	Matty Appleby	Barnsley	0.5
31001	Hennning Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
31101	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
31201	Gerry Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.5
31301	Gudni Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
31401	Chris Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
31501	Enrico Annoni	Celtic	3.0
31601	Malik MacKay	Celtic	3.0
31701	Alan Stubbs	Celtic	3.0
31801	Frank Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.0
31901	Michael Duberry	Chelsea	3.0
32001	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	2.5
32101	Bernard Lamourde	Chelsea	2.5
32201	Liam Delah	Coventry City	1.5
32301	Richard Shaw	Coventry City	1.5
32401	Paul Williams	Coventry City	1.5
32501	Andy Roberts	Crystal Palace	0.75
32601	Andy Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75
32701	David Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75
32801	Igor Stimac	Derby County	2.5
32901	Jacob Laursen	Derby County	1.5
33001	Steven Pressley	Dundee United	3.0
33101	Greg Shields	Dundee United	1.5
33201	Steven Bilio	Everton	3.0
33301	Dave Watson	Everton	2.0
33401	David Unsworth	Everton	2.0
33501	David Weir	Hibernian	2.0
33601	John Hughes	Hibernian	1.5
33701	David Wetherall	Leeds United	2.0
33801	Gunnar Halle	Leeds United	2.0
33901	Robert Molenaar	Leeds United	2.0
34001	Lucas Redebe	Leeds United	1.5
34101	Neil Elliott	Leicester City	3.0
34201	Portus Kaemark	Leicester City	2.0
34301	Steve Walsh	Leicester City	1.5
34401	Mark Wright	Liverpool	3.0
34501	Dominic Matteo	Liverpool	3.0
34601	Bjorn Kverme	Liverpool	3.0
34701	David May	Manchester United	3.5
34801	Gary Pallister	Manchester United	3.5
34901	Martin van der Gaag	Motherwell	1.5
35001	Philippe Albert	Newcastle United	3.0
35101	Darren Peacock	Newcastle United	3.0
35201	Steve Howey	Newcastle United	2.0
35301	Alessandro Platone	Newcastle United	3.0
35401	Sergio Porrini	Rangers	3.5
35501	Joachim Bjorklund	Rangers	3.5
35601	Lorenzo Amoroso	Rangers	3.5
35701	Des Walker	Sheff Wed	2.5
35801	Jon Newsome	Sheff Wed	2.5
35901	Peter Atkinson	Sheff Wed	2.5
36001	Stuart McCuskey	St Johnstone	0.5
36101	Richard Dryden	Southampton	1.0
36201	Claus Lundekvam	Southampton	1.0
36301	Ulrich van Gobel	Southampton	1.0
36401	Neil Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
36501	John Seales	Tottenham Hotspur	2.5
36601	Ramon Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
36701	Colin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
36801	Rio Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.5
36901	Richard Hall	West Ham United	2.0
37001	Steve Potts	West Ham United	1.5
37101	Chris Perry	Wimbledon	2.5
37201	Dean Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
40101	Eoin Jess	Aberdeen	3.0
40201	Paul Bernard	Aberdeen	2.0
40301	Marc Overmars	Arsenal	5.5
40401	Patrick Vieira	Arsenal	3.5
40501	Stephen Hughes	Arsenal	2.5
40601	Roy Parlor	Arsenal	2.5
40701	David Platt	Arsenal	1.5
40801	Mark Draper	Aston Villa	4.0
40901	Ian Taylor	Aston Villa	2.5
41001	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa	2.0
41101	Neil Redfern	Barnsley	3.0
41201	Eric Tinker	Barnsley	2.0
41301	Darren Sheridan	Barnsley	1.0
41401	Mark Bullock	Barnsley	0.5
41501	Jason Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41601	Billy McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41701	Tim Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41801	Garry Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41901	Alan Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	3.0
42001	Scott Sellers	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
42101	Per Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.0

Code	Name	Team	Price
40604	Michael Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
40605	Jamie Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
40701	Andreas Thom	Celtic	4.5
40702	Phil O'Donnell	Celtic	3.0
40703	Peter Grant	Celtic	1.5
40704	Craig Burley	Celtic	3.0
40801	Danielle Wise	Chelsea	4.0
40802	Roberto di Matteo	Chelsea	4.0
40803	Eddie Newton	Chelsea	2.5
40804	Gustavo Poyet	Chelsea	2.0
40901	Garry McAllister	Coventry City	2.5
40902	Trond Egil Solvest	Coventry City	1.5
40903	John Salako	Coventry City	1.5
41001	Simon Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.0
41002	Darren Fletcher	Crystal Palace	0.25
41003	Paul Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.5
41101	Aljosa Asanovic	Derby County	2.5
41102	Stefano Erank	Derby County	2.5
41103	Darryl Powell	Derby County	1.5
41104	Christian Dailly	Derby County	1.5
41105	Robb van der Laan	Derby County	1.0
41106	Jonathan Hunt	Derby County	1.0
41201	Robbie Winters	Dundee United	3.5
41301	Andy Smith	Dunfermline	2.0
41302	Derek Fleming	Dunfermline	1.5
41303	Gary Speed	Everton	3.5
41401	Joe Penkinson	Everton	1.5
41402	Garrett Farrelly	Everton	1.5
41501	Neil McCann	Hibernian	2.5
41601	Chris Jackson	Hibernian	2.0
41701	Barry Laverty	Hibernian	2.0
41801	Jim McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.0
41901	David Hopkin	Leeds United	3.5
42001	Lee Bowyer	Leeds United	3.0
42101	Alf Inge Haaland	Leeds United	2.5
42201	Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	2.5
42301	Garry Parker	Leicester City	2.0
42401	Neil Lennon	Leicester City	2.0
42501	Murphy Izet	Leicester City	2.0
42601	Scott Taylor	Leicester City	1.5
42701	Steve McLennan	Liverpool	7.0
42801	Oyvind Leonhardsen	Liverpool	4.0
42901	Michael Thomas	Liverpool	3.0
43001	James Redknapp	Liverpool	3.0
43101	John Barnes	Liverpool	2.5
43201	Paul Ince	Liverpool	5.0
43301	David Beckham	Manchester United	8.0
43401	Ryan Giggs	Manchester United	7.0
43501	Roy Keane	Manchester United	5.0
43601	Nicky Butt	Manchester United	4.0
43701	Andy Cole	Manchester United	5.0
43801	Billy Davies	Motherwell	2.0
43901	Robert Lee	Newcastle United	3.5
44001	Keith Gillespie	Newcastle United	3.0
44101	David Batty	Newcastle United	2.5
44201	Brian Laudrup	Rangers	8.0
44301	Paul Gascoigne	Rangers	6.0
44401	Jonas Thern	Rangers	4.0
44501	Jorg Albertz	Rangers	4.0
44601	Benoit Carbone	Sheff Wed	3.0
44701	Mark Pembroke	Sheff Wed	2.5
44801	Regi Blinker	Sheff Wed	1.5
44901	Graham Hyde	Sheff Wed	1.0
45001	Atilla Seherioglu	St Johnstone	0.75
45101	Jim Magilton	Southampton	1.5
45201	Robbie Slater	Southampton	0.75
45301	Neil Maddison	Southampton	0.75
45401	Andy Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
45501	Darren Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
45601	Ruel Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
45701	David Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
45801	David Ginola	Tottenham Hotspur	2.5
45901	Eyal Berkovic	West Ham United	2.5
46001	Steve Lomas	West Ham United	2.5
46101	John Moncur	West Ham United	2.0
46201	Michael Hughes	West Ham United	1.5
46301	Robbie Earle	Wimbledon	4.5
46401	Neil Ardley	Wimbledon	2.0
46501	Vinny Jones	Wimbledon	2.0
46601	Ceri Hughes	Wimbledon	1.5

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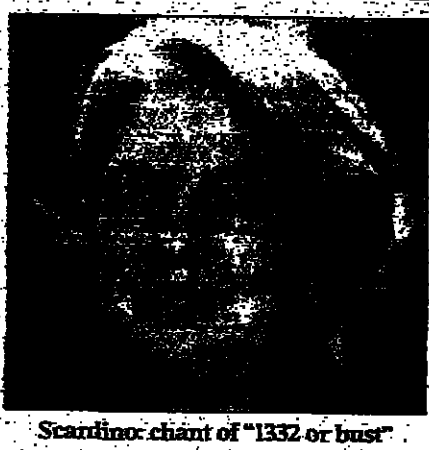
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY AUGUST 5 1997

5th

Pearson plans to double market value in five years



PEARSON, the troubled media and publishing group, vowed to improve its earnings by at least 10 per cent a year and to double its stock market value within five years.

recent years the company has disappointed investors with its loss-making acquisition of Mindscape, a computer software business, and, six months ago, the discovery of a £100 million fraud at Penguin.

fastest growing market, and that she and Mr Dyke were working together to develop opportunities.

by a strong performance from the *Financial Times*, which increased its contribution from £3.5 million to £22.4 million on the back of strong advertising, record circulation and reduced costs.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4885.7	(-3.8)
Yield	3.36%	
FTSE All share	2290.40	(-1.57)
Nikkei	19668.07	(-136.31)
New York		
Dow Jones	8178.94	(-15.10)
S&P Composite	948.50	(+1.36)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
Yield	6.49%	(6.49%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)
Future (Sep)	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)
STERLING		
New York	1.6285*	(1.6315)
London		
S	1.6308	(1.6370)
DM	3.0398	(3.0394)
FF	10.2520	(10.2480)
SP	2.4875	(2.4890)
Yen	192.80	(193.25)
E Index	105.3	(105.3)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.8654*	(1.8625)
FF	8.2990*	(8.2810)
SP	1.5200*	(1.5207)
Yen	118.36*	(118.40)
S Index	106.2	(106.0)
Tokyo close Yen	118.38	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$19.80	(\$19.95)
GOLD		
London close	\$323.65	(\$324.05)
* denotes midday trading price		

Payout up 33% at buoyant HSBC

By Robert Miller, Banking Correspondent

HSBC Holdings, the UK's biggest bank, marked the half-way stage of an ambitious £1 billion global acquisition programme with higher than expected interim results.

To celebrate the 13 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £2.6 billion, HSBC, which owns Midland Bank, lifted its half-time dividend by 33 per cent to 20p, payable on October 8.

The HSBC acquisition team, spearheaded by Sir William Purves, group chairman and John Bond, his chief executive, has spent some £600 million in the six months to June 30 with plans to match that figure in the second half of the year.

HSBC has also agreed in principle to buy a 19.9 per cent stake in Grupo Financiero Serfin in Mexico and increase its investment in Banco Santiago in Chile to 6.99 per cent.

To cap its Latin American expansion programme, HSBC has agreed to acquire the holding company of the Roberts Group, a major financial services company in Argentina.

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John Bond, chief executive, has led an acquisition team that has spent some £600 million and has plans to match that figure in the second half of the year

Founding director rides out of Camelot

By Jon Ashworth

CAMELOT, the National Lottery operator, embarked on a damage-limitation exercise yesterday after the surprise decision to quit of David Rigg, one of the consortium's founding directors.

Mr Rigg, 49, who became the television face of Camelot, is to step down as director of communications in October, taking with him £80,000 in a long-term bonus.

Camelot sources said Mr Rigg had been considering a move for the past two years. He had the choice of either seeing Camelot through its bid for the next lottery licence, up for renewal in September 2001, or taking on a new challenge. He has received

Clinton aide gives tobacco warning

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A SENIOR policy adviser to President Clinton yesterday called for the \$368.5 million (£216 million) settlement between American states and the tobacco industry to be "strengthened", and for stiffer penalties to be written into the deal.

Speaking on NBC television's *Today* programme, Bruce Reed, who is a domestic policy adviser to the President, said that the White House wanted to empower the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate tobacco as a "drug".

Mr Reed said: "The settlement needs to be settled in some key ways. We need to make sure that we give the Food and Drug Administration the full authority it needs to do the job."

Busmen put float windfalls at risk

By Fraser Nelson

BUS drivers with MTL Trust, the Liverpool operator, who are set for a £20,000 windfall when the company joins the stock market in the autumn, have put their payouts in danger by voting in favour of a 24-hour strike this Saturday.

In a dispute centring on MTL's two-tier pay structure, in which new drivers are paid much less than their more experienced colleagues, more than a thousand MTL shareholders have voted in favour of industrial action.

City analysts have said that the dispute might shave as much as £20 million from the £120 million at which the company was expected to be valued. This downgrade would wipe £4,000 from the value of each worker's potential holding - against an average increase of £1,600 a year that is under debate.

In the negotiations, which have been going on for the past month, MTL has raised its pay offer from 2.75 to 3 per cent for the higher-paid drivers and offered an 11 per cent rise on the lower pay band.

One City analyst said: "One of the biggest areas in any bus company is cost control. Drivers are already being paid a 20 per cent discount to the UK average wage, and there's only so much more you can cut from this. Any industrial action is certainly not going to help the flotation."

The company said that the drivers had already called off two strikes and it was hoping to reach an agreement before Saturday.

JOHN LANDEN.

Eighteenth century mathematician who revolutionised our understanding of elliptical integrals.

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BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Peter Seabrook, UK chief investment officer at Fleming Investment Management, joins SocGen as senior fund manager charged with building the UK equity team. **Robert Guest**, of Johnson Fry, the financial services company, is to head SocGen's compliance and legal department.

Ministers judge that proposals to give legal standing to trade unions where a majority of workers want it are more likely to win acceptance from companies if they have, in effect, been agreed by a body such as the CBI.



BY JASON NISSÉ

Amstrad shareholders have been given a litigation certificate entitling them to a payout from the Seagate action and a similar lawsuit against Western Digital, another disk maker, which is due to be

The certificates have attracted interest from a number of traders, particularly in the US, who have noted that the last price of Amstrad shares, 278p, implied a value of just 9½p each for the certificates. Klesh & Co, the secondary debt dealers, said yesterday that it is considering making a market in the certificates. Amstrad shareholders have

already received 163p a share in cash. Betacom stock worth 41p per Amstrad share and a share in Viglen, the personal computer business, whose price fell 4p to 64p on its first day of trading yesterday.

The poor performance of Viglen prompted Alan Sugar, Amstrad's founder, to postpone plans to cut his stake in Viglen from 35 per cent to 10 per cent. He said that he did not feel that the price reflected the underlying value of the company.

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

Jonathan Loynes of HSBC Greenwell said: "These figures provide the first hint that high street spending softened a little in July after the windfall-induced surge in the previous month. But they are unlikely to hold too much sway with the members of the monetary policy committee".

Zeneca approval

Aromascan grant

AROMASCAN, the electronic equipment group, has been awarded a 'significant' grant under the Department of Trade and Industry and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council link programme to develop a portable, hand-held instrument for the non-destructive detection of fungal infestation in the timber of buildings. It is collaborating with Terminix Peter Cox, part of the ServiceMaster group of the US. A commercial launch is planned for 2000.

FILTRONIC COMTEK, the electronic equipment group, raised pre-tax profits 25 per cent to £4.1 million in the year to May 31, on sales up 39 per cent to £46.6 million. Earnings rose from 5.59p to 6.52p out of which the total dividend rises from 1p to 1.25p. The shares rose from 375p to 394p after the group said that its order book had risen from £24.7 million in May to £37 million now, with orders in Australia and America. Brokers expect pre-tax profits of £9.8 million for the current year.

ZOTEPOAMS, the chemical technology group, raised pre-tax profits 32 per cent to £4 million for the six months to June 30 on sales up 18 per cent to £121 million. Earnings rose 36 per cent to 7.6p and the half-year dividend is raised 10 per cent to 2.2p. Bill Fairservice, managing director, said the underlying performance of Zotefoams had been robust and the outlook for volumes remained encouraging. However, he said the current strength of sterling would affect the second half.

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

BIRMINGHAM Midshires, the fifth-biggest building society, is to buy the commercial mortgage book of UCB Bank for an undisclosed sum.

The mortgage book comprises 1,500 loans worth a total £460 million. The purchase doubles the Birmingham Midshires commercial loan book to £920 million.

The society, which is believed to have talks with the Royal Bank of Scotland about a takeover, said that buying the mortgage portfolio fitted in with its plans for expansion.

Nigel Milner, Birmingham Midshires head of business finance, said: "This purchase is in line with our strategy to grow through acquisition."

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

SEDGWICK GROUP, the employee benefits consultancy, is paying £10 million setting up a joint venture with the Nikols Brichetto Group, a leading insurance broker in Italy (Gavin Lumsden writes). The new company, Nikols Sedgwick, will operate in southern Europe and Latin America. Sax Riley, Sedgwick's chair-

man, said that the deal would enhance the group's earnings next year. Letizia Moratti, chairman of Nikols Brichetto, will become executive chairman of Nikols Sedgwick.

A subsidiary of Securfin, which is owned by the Moratti family, will own 51 per cent of the new company that emerges from the deal.

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

Unifi, the Barclays staff union, said yesterday that after two and a half hours of discussion over a two-day period Barclays broke off discussion with the staff body and Bifu, the banking, insurance and finance union.


Iain MacLean, Unifi's assistant general secretary, said Barclays had rejected a formal request for the dispute over pay and staff grading to be referred to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

He added: "At no time has Barclays listened to what its staff and unions have been saying. We have no recourse but to enter into prolonged industrial action."

A spokesman for Barclays said last night: "We decided not to go to ACS because we believed no purpose would be served given that we have had five months of discussion already and have also made a number of modifications to the proposals."

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Scardino shows the American way



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Female American executives should blow an air kiss in the direction of Marjorie Scardino. The disastrous reign of Ann Iverson at Laura Ashley has been wrecking the reputation of the breed but yesterday the dynamic Mrs Scardino went a long way to restoring the group image.

Pearson's figures were better than most had expected but more important was what the chief executive had to say about her plans. Investors do not have to be American to approve of motherhood and apple pie and they relished the common-sense which Mrs Scardino had to offer.

Her recognition that stock market value is an important measure was destined to go down well with shareholders. Similarly, her assertion that Pearson has some good businesses which could do even better.

Coming from a company which not so long ago spent a fortune on buying a rotten business, in Mindscape, and then discovered at Penguin the sort of multi-million black hole more regularly associated with investment banking, this was comforting news. Spoken with the easy confidence that is Mrs Scardino's style, it was doubly effective.

What is now clear is that there is a change of culture at Pearson. The combination of

Dennis Stevenson as chairman and Mrs Scardino as chief executive leaves the double act of Lord Blakenham and Frank Barlow looking as dated as Morecambe and Wise, and far less likely to appeal to a modern audience.

The cerebral Stevenson, whose thoughts on business strategy came accompanied by a very hefty bill when he was running the SRU consultancy, is the perfect partner for Mrs Scardino, an energetic, people motivator. Together, they have already wrought tremendous change at Pearson, bringing in new managerial talent to many of the divisions, with more appointments still to come.

Managing creative people is its own challenge and eventually it may be that Pearson has to redefine the role of Greg Dyke, the colourful head of its television business. But television remains, sensibly, a part of Pearson's long term future.

Yet there should be some structural changes to come within the group and by the end of the year it is likely that some of these will become apparent.

There is little point in hoisting up for sale signs or spelling out what is on the list of potential acquisitions if you intend to deal at the best price. Mrs Scardino's aim is to build Pearson's presence in those areas where it is already strong, not change the entire recipe.

Mrs Iverson would do well to take note of this philosophy.

Conversion on the road to St Paul's

It seems that there may soon be positive news about Paternoster Square, the bleak and windswept monstrosity that abuts St Paul's Cathedral. Most City folk have almost given up hope of redevelopment ever rescuing the site, blighted as it has been by the misguided

interventions of the Prince of Wales. But the architects are now at work putting the finishing final to a scheme which they intend to submit to the City planners by the end of the summer.

Mitsubishi, which has already paid far more than it should have for the site, is now keen to move ahead, encouraged not a little by the buoyant property market and demand for large scale office properties. Having abandoned the chocolate box scheme approved by HRH, it has been working on producing something that might appeal to those who work in the City.

By the end of last month, that design had been paraded for approval by the dignitaries of English Heritage and the Royal Fine Art Commission, whose nit picking is now being incorporated into the scheme. Only the Dean and Chapter of St

Paul's remain to be formally consulted, and after being in such a miserable shadow for so long, the likelihood is that they will not raise any major objections to the proposals for what will be one of the largest projects to go ahead in the Square Mile.

Earlier designs had incorporated a massive 750,000 sq ft of office and retail space and economics will determine that the latest is not far short of that. Its involvement in Paternoster Square is thought to have cost Mitsubishi at least £200 million so far, and the company is certainly not going to publicly hazard a guess on the redevelopment costs. However, its new plan for six separate office buildings has the advantage of each being able to be put up, and funded, individually.

I do not doubt that grovelling messengers have been running

back and forth to Highgrove to try to win Prince Charles's blessing for the new scheme. They should save the petrol money. Paternoster Square is too important a site to be at the mercy of interfering amateur architects.

Sterling becomes a sideshow

Thank goodness, there is still no absolute certainty about the conclusions the Bank of England's monetary policy committee will reveal in time for lunch on Thursday. The betting remains that base rates will reach 7 per cent. The foreign exchanges assume that, even if dealers claim unconvincingly that a month's delay would make no difference to sterling.

The UK conflict between managing consumer demand and destroying exporters in droves is a bit predictable. It is also fast becoming a sideshow.

Elsewhere, more dangerous imbalances are building up. The dollar, whose strength until recently waxed and waned with the

likelihood of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates, is now bombing ahead even though rates are thought to be on hold. Dollar fans are buying dollar assets, especially government debt, driving down longer rates even more to take advantage of supposedly strong but inflation-free economic growth.

Marks and yen are looking ever weaker by contrast. The Bundesbank at least is worried, because the mark is a symbol for the effete euro now expected to mince on to the world stage in 1999. The Buba may have had enough and signal that the markets can raise repo rates.

That is irrelevant to Europe's needs, but the further these trends overshoot, the more likely they are to rebound on us all with a nasty disruptive bang.

Bonus number

FOR A communications director, David Rigg gave a poor performance yesterday as he tried to explain his decision to leave Camelot and the level of salary not normally associated with such a role. He claims to have no job planned, but don't be surprised if he lands up back at De La Rue. It would be a poor show if the shareholders in the Lottery operator did not safeguard the careers, and salaries, of those who have taken the flak at Camelot.

Industrial action and strong pound dent BA

By DOMINIC WALSH

THE industrial action that wreaked havoc on thousands of British Airways flights last month will wipe £125 million from the company's profits in the first half of this year.

The bill from the three-day strike by cabin crew and delays in returning services to normal is expected to hit second-quarter profits by £110 million.

However, the mere threat of action was enough to wipe £15 million from the airline's first-quarter figures as customers moved bookings to other carriers and BA was forced to instigate contingency plans.

Andrew Murray, spokesman for the Transport and General Workers' Union, described the £125 million cost of the strike as "a very costly exercise" in industrial relations that had stemmed from BA's refusal to negotiate on changes to working practices.

BA's operating profits in the three months to June 30 dived £55 million to £140 million largely because of a £77 million hit arising from the strength of sterling against such currencies as the mark, the franc and the yen.

Bob Ayling, chief executive, said that if the situation persisted, the total cost for the



Bob Ayling remains hopeful on BA-American link

year could exceed £200 million. City analysts expressed surprise at the extent of the impact both of sterling and the industrial dispute and shares in BA shed 30p to finish at 610p, a drop of 5 per cent. A £130 million profit from the sale of the airline's holding in US Airways meant headline pre-tax profits increased 46.7 per cent to £220 million in the first quarter on turnover 5.4 per cent better at £2.22 billion.

Mr Ayling said that he remained hopeful that BA's controversial alliance with American Airlines would secure regulatory approval, albeit that this was progressing "very slowly".

There have been suggestions recently that the European Union will demand that the two airlines give up 350 weekly slots at Heathrow airport as the price for approval, but Mr Ayling said that such a demand would be unacceptable.

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, said that in spite of the difficulties experienced by the airline the outlook remained positive.

He added: "The external environment still generally favours growth in international traffic with strong economic growth in the UK and the USA accompanied by the start of a recovery in the principal market of continental Europe."

Sir Colin said that the company was still on track with the business efficiency programme that it launched last summer and would deliver at least £200 million of savings in the current year. The aim is to increase savings to £1 billion a year by 2000.

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City diary, page 27

London cab drivers in line for £3,500

MORE than 1,600 London cab drivers could be in line for a windfall of at least £3,500 each under plans to demutualise Dial-A-Cab, the capital's largest taxi network (Fraser Nelson writes). The company, a friendly society, is seeking members' approval to convert to plc status, from which it plans to join the Alternative Investment Market by next April. It plans to raise about £2 million to install touch-pad computer systems for drivers to keep in touch with headquarters. The company said it will not join the market for a valuation of less than £5 million.

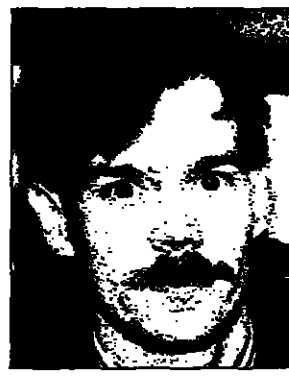
Country Casuals spurns suitors to go it alone

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

IN ANOTHER twist in the Country Casuals saga, the designer and retailer of women's clothing yesterday revealed that it has spurned all its remaining suitors.

The company, which in June said it had ended takeover talks with Mark Bunce, its former chief executive, said that talks with other potential buyers have also now ended.

Another former chief executive, John Shannon, attempted a bid for the company in 1995. Tom Adam, chairman, refused to name the latest potential buyers, but they are believed to have been other women's wear retailers. The



Mark Bunce: takeover talks

news that the company is to remain independent sent the shares falling 20p to 113½p. Mark Bunce and his wife

Christina resigned from the board in May when they proposed to buy the company. A formal bid never materialised, and they left the company's employment at the end of June, Mr Adam said. They have both received pay-offs, believed to be less than one year's salary.

Country Casuals now has only three board members. Andrew Mills-Baker stepped up from finance director to be chief executive, while Mr Adams is non-executive chairman. Ian Peacock is the other non-executive director. First-half same-store sales were up 8 per cent, the company said.

Tempus, page 26

HSBC Holdings plc



1997 Interim Results

Half-year to	30 June 1997	30 June 1996
Profit before tax	£2,623m	£2,321m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£1,757m	£1,586m
Earnings per share	65.93p	60.14p
Dividends per share	20.00p	15.00p
Capital resources	£24,504m	£23,403m

First half 1997 over first half 1996

- Pre-tax profit up 13% and attributable profit up 11%
- Pre-tax profit up 21% and attributable profit up 19% in Hong Kong dollars
- Earnings per share up 10%
- Dividends per share up 33%
- Total capital ratio 14.2% and tier 1 capital ratio 9.4%

The 1997 Interim Report will be sent to shareholders on Friday, 15 August 1997 and copies may be obtained from Group Public Affairs at the address below.

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Web: www.hsbcgroup.com

Comment by Sir William Purves, HSBC Group Chairman

"I am pleased to report that in the first half of 1997 HSBC Holdings continued to generate a strong return on shareholders' funds, producing attributable profit of £1,757 million, 11 per cent ahead of the comparable figure in 1996, despite the adverse exchange rate translation impact of stronger sterling. Our capital strength enabled us to make major investments while maintaining dividend growth.

"Our Board of Directors has declared a first interim dividend of 20 pence per share, an increase of 33 per cent compared with 15 pence declared in 1996.

"Operating profit rose by 19 per cent to £2,402 million mainly as a result of asset growth in Asia, the United Kingdom and North America which more than compensated for the pressure on lending margins. Credit quality remained high and cost discipline was maintained.

"We believe that the investments made in the first half of 1997, many of which were explained in our 1996 Annual Report and Accounts, will broaden the Group's platform for growth into the next century.

"The smooth transition of Hong Kong to a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China at midnight on 30 June was an important milestone. Our confidence remains high in the economic strength of the Hong Kong SAR, in its role as a financial centre and in our position within the Hong Kong financial community.

"I am confident that our committed employees, capital strength, continuing technological development and cost vigilance will enable us to meet the challenges of increasing competition and very rapid changes in our markets and turn these into benefits for our customers and shareholders around the world."

Shares deal lifts Oxford Molecular

By GEORGE SIVEL

SHARES in Oxford Molecular rose 3½p to 248½p, after the pharmaceuticals group announced that an additional £2 million cash had been invested in Cambridge Combinatorial in return for non-redeemable preference shares.

Oxford also revealed a reduction in pre-tax losses, from £950,000 to £677,000, in the six months to end June. Losses per share fell from 1.7p to 1.1p. Sales rose 42 per cent to £6.17 million, while research and development spending rose to £2.2 million from £928,000.

Dr Tony Marchington, chief executive of Oxford, said: "These results have surpassed our expectations and continue the consistent improvement demonstrated since flotation in 1994."

Shire pays £113m for US network

By PAUL DURMAN

SHIRE Pharmaceuticals, the Andover company that joined the stock market 18 months ago, is making its second large US acquisition this year with Richmond Pharmaceuticals Company for an initial \$185.7 million (£113.3 million).

Rolf Stahel, Shire's chief executive, said Richmond would give the group a US distribution network for its existing drugs, a 7 per cent share of the \$450 million market in treating hyperactive children, which is currently dominated by Medeva and methylphenidate, its drug.

The purchase, which will be largely funded by an £88.9 million share issue, follows Shire's earlier acquisition of

Pharmavene, a drug delivery specialist for which it agreed to pay up to £104 million.

Dr Stahel said Richmond was the most attractive of the 200 possible acquisitions suggested by Shire's US advisers. Its 65 salespeople would give Shire access to 34 per cent of the world's healthcare market, up from the existing 4 per cent.

Richmond made a pre-tax profit of \$1.7 million last year on sales of \$15.3 million. For the first half of this year, it has made pre-tax profits of at least \$7.5 million on sales of at least \$18 million. Sales are rising rapidly because of last year's launch of Adderall, its hyperactivity treatment.

Tempus, page 26

Syndicate's losses under scrutiny by Lloyd's

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Lloyd's of London insurance market has revealed that its regulatory division is investigating multimillion pound losses arising from Syndicate 657 three years ago.

Lloyd's is holding discussions with Archer, the management company behind the syndicate, and several institutional shareholders, including New London Capital, Angerstein and LIMIT. A spokesman said that Lloyd's was concerned to settle the matter quickly and out of court as the case stood out badly in a year in which the long-running conflict with names had begun to be resolved.

The statement came as New London Capital, an investment trust investing in Lloyd's syndicates, revealed worse-than-expected final results. NLC, the largest investor in the syndicate, said it lost £4.2 million from syndicate 657 in 1994 and was making £2.3 million of provisions to cover forecast losses in 1995 and 1996. Its reduced pre-tax profits of £6.53 million gave it a return on capital of 6.2 per cent, compared with a sector average return of 8.9 per cent.

In a statement, Bruce Schnitzer, chairman, said the closing of the syndicate's 1993 account had been incorrect. NLC had been exposed to £2.8 million of losses in which it was not involved, he said.

A source close to Archer denied that there was anything wrong with the accounts. The losses came from underwriting of professional indemnity policies.

Richard Cole, NLC director, will resign at the annual meeting as the company investigates its investment in the syndicate.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Bid talk renews interest in Reckitt & Colman

CITY bears of Reckitt & Colman yesterday caught the sort of cold for which its Lemsip common potting might sometimes come in handy.

While the rest of the equity market was on the slide, shares in the household products group were hitting new highs with a rise of 20½p to 985½p as almost one million shares changed hands in a thin market.

Once again the talk is of a possible bid by Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, which is already sitting on a cash pile of £5 billion after the recent sale of its specialty chemicals business to ICI.

Unilever is known to be on the lookout for suitable acquisitions and Reckitt would certainly fit the bill with a strong portfolio of household names such as Disprin, Dettol, Mr Sheen and Reckitt. Carrying a price tag of just £4 billion, Reckitt, which is headed by Alan Dalby, chairman, and Vernon Sankey, chief executive, certainly looks vulnerable to the likes of Unilever, which closed yesterday 17p dearer at £18.37 where it is valued at £14.9 billion.

Elsewhere, turnover slowed to a trickle with fewer than 600 million shares changing hands — the lowest volume for some months. Investors were in no mood to open fresh positions. They want to see whether the Bank of England pushes up interest rates again this week, for the fourth time in as many months. Also, the holiday season has left empty desks in the Square Mile.

Underpinned by some better than expected trading news, the market was able to claw back early losses that were a hangover from Friday's non-farm payroll numbers. The FTSE 100 index, down 25.3 earlier, closed just 3.6 off at 4,895.7.

There was a warm response to half-year figures at the top end of expectations from HSBC as the price surged 44½p to a high of £22.38. The increase of one-third in the interim payout also pleased the City. It follows on from a strong performance last week by Lloyds TSB, down 26p at 730p, which lifted its payout 26 per cent and set the pace for the rest of the bank dividend reporting season. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull and Lehman Brothers have since set a target price for Lloyds of 900p. Elsewhere in



Alan Dalby, left, and Vernon Sankey, of Reckitt & Colman. 20½p higher, looking vulnerable to the likes of Unilever

the banking sector, there was selective support for NatWest Group, up 10½p to 870p, reporting later today, and Standard Chartered, 8½p better at £10.01½, which reports tomorrow.

British Airways fell 30p to 610p as brokers began the task of downgrading their profit estimates for the full year in the wake of first-quarter num-

bers that failed to live up to expectations. The cabin staff dispute could cost the group up to £125 million in the first six months, while the strong pound will also take a toll.

Some upbeat comments from Marjorie Scardino, chief executive, lifted Pearson 26½p to 692½p. She has set out to double the media group's value during the next

five years, but warned the market that heavy investment would depress short-term growth.

Dealers reported heavy turnover in shares of Vigen Technology, the consumer electronics group and all that is left after the restructuring of Amstrad, which opened at 62½p and touched a peak of 67½p before closing at 64½p on the day. It is headed by Alan Sugar, who now has 35 per cent of Vigen but says it is undervalued. He has changed his mind about reducing the holding from 35 per cent to 10 per cent.

News that it had joined NTL in informal talks that could lead to a merger prompted a rise of 4p to 83p in Telewest, the American cable communications company.

Telewest was floated in London in November 1994, at 82p, but has failed to live up to expectations due to intense competition.

The breakdown in bid talks left Country Casuals 2½p lower at 113½p. The group now intends to develop its core business.

Speculative buying drove up Plantation & General 6p to 96p after Friday's 80p a share offer from Rovidia, the public vehicle of Nicholas Rodini, regarded as Britain's highest paid businessman. The offer has prompted a boardroom reshuffle.

AIM-listed Surrey Free Inns slipped 5p to 469p after Regent Inns sold its entire holding of 793,125 shares at 465p. The disposal netted Regent up 13½p at 278½p, a profit of £1.55 million over book value.

GILT-EDGED: Prices drifted in the trading for much of the day, with investors anxiously awaiting the conclusion of this week's meeting of the Bank of England independent economic committee.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt fell 1½ to £114.21½ as the total number of contracts reached 50,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished 1½ lower at £111½, while its shorter Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was five ticks easier at £102½.

NEW YORK: Shares recovered some early losses and technology stocks added to slender gains. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 15.10 points at 5,178.94.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5178.94 (-15.10)
S&P Composite 948.50 (-1.39)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 19068.07 (-136.31)
Hang Seng 16299.59 (-114.63)

Hong Kong:
SSE Index 979.35 (-1.39)
AO 2706.00 (-21.50)

Sydney:
Frankfurt 4296.94 (-111.88)
DAX 1064.19 (-37.37)

Paris:
CAC-40 2992.41 (-57.03)
Zurich: SIK Gen 1209.20 (-15.33)

London:
FT 30 3081.5 (-10.7)
FTSE 100 4895.7 (-25.3)
FTSE 250 4465.0 (-1.7)
FTSE 350 2346.8 (-1.7)
FTSE Europe 100 2747.92 (-35.28)
FTSE Asia 2200.00 (-1.57)
FTSE Non Financials 2287.26 (-14.52)
FTSE Fixed Interest 125.90 (-0.40)
FTSE Govt Secs 7.01 (-0.29)
Barracuda 588.2m
US\$ 1.6006 (-0.0001)
German Mark 1.0944 (+0.0009)
Exchange Index 105.3 (5.6m)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
LCRU 1.2095
NPL 157.5 Jan (2.7%) Jan 1987-100
RPIX 156.7 Jan (2.7%) Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

Billiton	223½	...
British West Pnt	109½	+1
Camell Ltd	117½	...
Delcam	269	...
EMI B	115	...
Fairplay Consulting	3½	...
Galen Holdings	197½	-2
Genetec Group	117½	-6
Helicon Publishing	105½	-2
Hitech Credit (UK)	148½	...
Intona Group	385½	-2½
Kingfisher Leisure	175½	...
Merroline	216½	+7½
Reedbourne Merlon	108½	...
SBS Group	105½	...
Ted Baker	140	...
Thorn B	20½	...
Vigen Technology	64½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Active Imaging n/p	1	...
Britannia n/p	1	-15½
Fortune Oil n/p (1)	3	...
Golden land n/p (2)	2½	...
Logica n/p (605)	157½	+6
Lon Ltd n/p (120)	12½	...
Tea Plant n/p (120)	1½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

Interoute	123½p (+12½p)
Interoute	100½p (+11½p)
Out Telecom	389½p (+21p)
Regent Inns	278½p (+13½p)
Fibronic	228½p (+14½p)
Drilling King	228½p (+14½p)
Real Time	280p (+12p)
Booker	298½p (+13p)
Shield Diag	560p (+17p)
P&O	832½p (+14p)

FALLS

Country Casuals	113½p (-20p)
Chemring	121½p (-12p)
CPL Aromas	125p (-11p)
Cortec	151½p (-11p)
British Airways	610p (-30p)
Bank of England	620p (-15p)
Rate & Note	352½p (-10p)
Flextech	636p (-17p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Ayling strategy will not fly

BOB AYLING was always going to find Sir Colin Marshall a tough act to follow. But having to admit that his handling of the recent industrial unrest has cost the company £125 million must have been especially painful. To add insult to injury, the strong pound knocked another £77 million off first-quarter profits and the bill for the year as a whole could well reach £200 million. The problems will top at least £100 million of this year's pre-tax profit estimates of around £650 million, fully justifying the 5 per cent share price drop.

Of course, it is possible to view Mr Ayling's built-in-china-shop behaviour towards his employees as a calculated gamble in his pursuit of the golden £1 billion efficiency programme launched last year — even if he had not gambled on causing a three-day strike. Beneath the gory sterling and strike

details, it is possible to derive encouragement from the first-quarter figures. It is clear, for example, that BA is benefiting from the general improvement in market conditions. Demand from the US is strong and the European economies are now beginning to come through strongly.

It is also becoming apparent that the regulatory hurdles hindering its proposed alliance with American Airlines may not be too much of a problem. Yesterday there were clear signs that, if the partners are asked to give up too many Heathrow slots to make the alliance stack up, they will simply come up with a watered-down marketing agreement that could still deliver significant benefits.

The shares are unlikely to fly while the American deal remains up in the air, but BA's longer-term prospects look solid.

HSBC Holdings

SIR William Purves, the straight-talking group chairman of HSBC Holdings, has always preferred to let actions speak louder than words. Hence his terse "no" to a question yesterday on whether he would explain a £51 million fall in equities and other trading profits, due mainly to an underwriting transaction undertaken in Hong Kong.

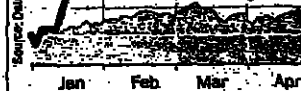
While bid and merger speculation has swirled around the UK banking sector, HSBC's star has shone the brightest. The bank — very much the shark rather than the fish — has outperformed the FT All Share index by 41.6 per cent since the start of the year. After yesterday's 44½p rise to 2238p, HSBC is worth 70 per cent more than it was on January 1 — an astonishing

rise for a business of its scale and maturity.

The HSBC diversification programme into less developed markets — Chile, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, with China still to show its full potential — underlines the global nature of this banking group, especially in comparison with its mainly UK-based rivals.

At some point the fevered bid speculation will evaporate.

That might allow HSBC to strike out for one of its smaller brethren but it could also hit the bank's market ratings. With rising interest rates on the way, it is hard to believe that HSBC can "sustain" its recent outperformance. Time to take some profits.



Shire

INVESTORS in Shire Pharmaceuticals are entitled to be surprised at the appetite for acquisitions that it has shown. Yesterday's £113.3 million purchase of Richmond Pharmaceuticals, a UK-based company, is a significant move for the company. It is not encouraging that Shire took advantage of the Richmond smokescreen to slip out an announcement that it was dropping one of its development projects. Shire's shares, up 8p to 249½p yesterday, have done well against a miserable biotech backdrop. However, until investors can see more of the benefit of its frenetic activity, the shares are strictly for the brave.

At the time, expanding through "selective corporate acquisitions" was the fourth of Shire's four reasons for coming to the market. As ever with young drug groups, most of the talk was about developing medicines.

The acquisitions of Pharm-aven and Richmond have added interesting drugs to Shire's medicine chest, and the Richmond deal gives it access to the US market for the first time. These are sensible moves, but Shire is moving too fast to allow in-

vestors to see what is going on. Although Shire is less risky than the true drug discovery companies, there are already enough uncertainties without a big acquisition every six months.

It is not encouraging that Shire took advantage of the Richmond smokescreen to slip out an announcement that it was dropping one of its development projects. Shire's shares, up 8p to 249½p yesterday, have done well against a miserable biotech backdrop. However, until investors can see more of the benefit of its frenetic activity, the shares are strictly for the brave.

Country Casuals

BEING chief executive of Country Casuals is not like being chief executive elsewhere. At some point, the holder of the job always seems to feel an urge to buy the company.

The two former chief execu-

tives to have made failed bids were clearly convinced that there is value trapped somewhere within the group, unable to come out. They may be right. And having sold two loss-making subsidiaries, Elva and Lanes, any value should now flow through.

The danger is that the various bids — from ex-chief executives and from others — have distracted management to a degree that the core Country Casuals brand has been allowed to drift. And although the section of the women's wear market served by Country Casuals may appear relatively benign, it is actually just as cut-throat as any other part, particularly with Marks & Spencer stealing sales from all sides.

Although like-for-like sales at Country Casuals were reassuring, the goings on of the past two years mean that a lot more reassurance will have to come down from the depleted board if investors are to be tempted back into the company.

COMMODITIES

LIFE				
	Contract	Open	High	Low
Sep	1012-1009	1012	1012	1012
Dec	1014-1013	1014	1013	1013
Mar	1016-1015	1016	1015	1015
Jun	1018-1017	1018	1017	1017
Jul	1019-1018	1019	1018	1018
Vol	111-112			
Volume	1179			
ROBUSTA COFFEE (\$)				
	Contract	Open	High	Low
Sep	1012-1009	1012	1012	1012
Dec	1014-1013	1014	1013	1013
Mar	1016-1015	1016	1015	1015
Jun	1018-1017	1018	1017	1017
Jul	1019-1018	1019	1018	1018
Vol	111-112			
Volume	1179			
WHITE SUGAR (\$)				
	Contract	Open	High	Low
Sep	32.0-32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
Dec	32.1-32.0	32.1	32.0	32.0
Mar	32.2-32.0	32.2	32.0	32.0
Vol	32.1-32.0	32.1	32.0	32.0
Volume	32.1-32.0	32.1	32.0	32.0
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION				
Average futures prices at representative markets				
(gr/lb live)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle	
Eng	11.18	2.73	47.41	
Eng/Water	10.13	10.86	77.19	
Eng	11.18	2.73	47.41	
Eng/Water	10.13	10.86	77.19	
Eng	11.18	2.73	47.41	
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Eng/Water	10.13	10.86	77.19	
Eng	11.18	2.73	47.41	
Eng/Water	10			

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	114.24	114.28	114.17	114.21	51000
Period	114.24	114.28	114.17	114.21	51000
German Govt Bond (Bund)	102.24	102.24	102.15	102.15	75000
Period	102.24	102.24	102.15	102.15	75000
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	136.38	136.42	136.33	136.30	65000
Period	136.38	136.42	136.33	136.30	65000
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	126.42	126.45	126.43	126.50	22000
Period	126.42	126.45	126.43	126.50	22000
Three Mth Sterling	92.68	92.68	92.66	92.67	10412
Period	92.68	92.68	92.66	92.67	10412
Three Mth Eurodollar	92.68	92.68	92.66	92.67	10412
Period	92.68	92.68	92.66	92.67	10412
Three Mth Euroyen	92.68	92.68	92.66	92.67	10412
Period	92.68	92.68	92.66	92.67	10412
Three Mth Euroswiss	92.68	92.68	92.66	92.67	10412
Period	92.68	92.68	92.66	92.67	10412
Three Mth ECU	92.68	92.68	92.66	92.67	10412
Period	92.68	92.68	92.66	92.67	10412
FTSE 100	4895.7	4895.7	4895.7	4895.7	50
Period	4895.7	4895.7	4895.7	4895.7	50

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Contract	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Gold	1250.00	1250.00	1250.00	1250.00	10000
Silver	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	10000
Copper	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	10000
Aluminum	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	10000
Zinc	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	10000
Nickel	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	10000
Lead	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	10000
Tin	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	10000
Platinum	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	10000
Palladium	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	10000

LIFE

Contract	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
COCA	1012-1009	1012	1009	1012	51000
Dec	1014-1013	1014	1013	1014	51000
Mar	1016-1015	1016	1015	1016	51000
Jun	1018-1017	1018	1017	1018	51000
Jul	1019-1018	1019	1018	1019	51000
Vol	111-112			111-112	51000
Volume	1179			1179	51000

LIFE

Contract	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
COCA	1012-1009	1012	1009	1012	51000
Dec	1014-1013	1014	1013	1014	51000
Mar	1016-1015	1016	1015	1016	51000
Jun	1018-1017	1018	1017	1018	51000
Jul	1019-1018	1019	1018	1019	51000
Vol	111-112			111-112	51000
Volume	1179			1179	51000

DOLLAR RATES

Contract	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
US Dollar	1.5404-1.5399	1.5404	1.5399	1.5404	10000
UK Pound	1.5404-1.5399	1.5404	1.5399	1.5404	10000
Swiss Franc	1.5404-1.5399	1.5404	1.5399	1.5404	

Western supermarkets chase Eastern promise

Sarah Cunningham reports on British grocery chains that are aiming for a profitable presence in South East Asian markets

The steady stream of Western supermarket groups breaking into South East Asia and China is threatening to turn into a flood. Many of Europe's largest supermarket chains have opened stores there and others are on their way. Tesco is the first British chain to start looking to the East.

Tesco sent Michael Fleming, its business development director, to Hong Kong last month to look for potential partners in the region. According to Tony MacNeary, food retailing analyst at NatWest Markets, governments in the region are trying to push up food hygiene standards by encouraging the spread of supermarkets. This is seen as an open invitation to European supermarket groups whose growth prospects at home are restricted by planning laws.

Although in the long term the supermarkets will be a threat to the traditional street markets where most people buy food in Asia, there is a long way to go. Supermarkets provide less than 5 per cent of the food sold in South East Asia, compared with about 65 per cent in the UK.

Carrefour, the French hypermarket group and one of the most globally-minded food retailers, is in several South East Asian markets as is Makro, the Dutch cash & carry company. Aldi, the Dutch supermarket operator, has opened about 70 stores in the past two years in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Shanghai.

Another French group, Casino, is looking to open in Taiwan, while Delhaize, the Belgian group, plans to open up in Asia.

In Tesco's case, if Mr Fleming likes what he finds and moves as fast as Aldi, the first joint venture agreement could be signed within months. Tesco is cagey about its plans but analysts believe it must be looking seriously at entering China rather than concentrating on Hong Kong, which is well served by grocers. Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines are also likely to figure in their calculations, while Vietnam could

also end up with a Tesco presence. Tesco's strategy is certain to differ from that of Marks & Spencer, which has opened many stores in Asia but does not sell food in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, and sells relatively little in Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Among other foreign operators in the region Japan's Jusco has a presence but sells mainly to expatriate Japanese. American companies are noticeable by their absence. Of all the companies already there, the one that Tesco is most likely to try to emulate in Asia is Aldi.

Going by the Aldi experience, Tesco will find that moving into Asia like moving into Eastern Europe, will mean a long wait for profits. Stewart Brown, director of investor relations at Aldi, said that the company, which opened its first stores in the region at the beginning of last year and expects turnover this year of up to £700 million, does not expect to break even there until 2000. Aldi is currently working on getting the right format. "Consumers want very fresh food, fresh meat means meat that has been killed that morning. They also like low-key selling."

Air MacNeary does not expect other British grocers to make a push into Asia just yet. Asda and Sainsbury are probably too small while J Sainsbury is busy in the US. But for Tesco he can see the logic. "It is taking a very long-term view."

Why the days of the high street bank manager are numbered

Virgin's threat to take on the clearers could alter banking. Caroline Merrell says

The days of Captain Mainwaring, the power-crazed self-important bank manager star of the hit series *Dad's Army* may well be over. The announcement this week that Richard Branson's Virgin Group intended to try to take on the clearers by offering a bank through its financial services division, Virgin Direct, could be the final nail in the coffin for traditional branch-based retail banking.

Rowan Gormley, Virgin Direct managing director, said the company has lined up £400 million from Australian Mutual Provident (AMP), its backer, to provide funds for continued expansion — banking services are under consideration.

Mr Gormley said: "Many have been put off changing banks because it is a pain in the neck. However, we believe that there is increasing dissatisfaction among consumers. Virgin Direct said it could be ready to launch its bank by the end of the year."

With the UK's high street banks announcing record profits this year, thousands of dissatisfied customers must be wondering whether any of the banks' billions will be spent on offering better services, higher savings rates and lower mortgage rates. Already the perception of bank customers has changed from the days when they entered the marble halls with awe and considered an appointment with the bank manager to be an honour. The banks now look like any other high street retail outlet and many bank account holders have not visited their branch in years. Customer dissatisfaction is high, according to the Banking Ombudsman, the number of complaints against banks is on the increase, although they are down on their peak in 1992.

Which?, the magazine for the Consumers' Association, is also critical of the high street banks and building societies. According to a recent survey, going overdrawn with one of the top eight banks and building societies by £100 a month for the past five years would



Captain Mainwaring, the power-crazed self-important bank manager of *Dad's Army*, left, with Sergeant Wilson

have cost on average £223. The traditional banks, such as NatWest, would have charged a massive £53, while the smaller building societies, such as the Wesleys, would have charged about £33.

Customer unhappiness about bank services and opening hours has contributed to the success of the new breed of telephone banks such as First Direct, part of Midland. Other recent entrants into the telephone banking arena include the supermarketers, such as Tesco, Sainsbury's and Sainsbury's, and the insurance companies, such as Prudential and Scottish Widows. Standard Life is also expected to launch a bank this year. Sainsbury's

Bank has already attracted 350,000 customers with a total of £600 million. The customers have been attracted by the high rates of interest on offer. The interest on the supermarket bank's instant access account at 6.15 per cent is nearly double that offered by other banks, where an average balance of £3,000 would pay a rate of 3 per cent.

Telephone banking has already begun to have a big impact on the numbers of branches. As well as being more convenient for customers, who may find it difficult to find the time to get in to a bank, or who may prefer to handle their banking affairs outside office hours, telephone-based trans-

actions are also much cheaper for the bank to offer. According to Roger Allen & Hamilton, the firm of market consultants, the cost to the bank of a transaction through a branch is double that of one via the telephone.

The cheapness of telephone banking has contributed to the huge number of branch closures in recent years. Figures from the British Bankers' Association show that over the past ten years the number of bank and building society branches have shrunk by 6,000 from a peak of 21,000, a drop of nearly 30 per cent. Over the past ten years the number of people employed by banks has fallen nearly 10 per cent to 274,000. Analysts believe that this trend

will continue, especially if new entrants such as Virgin and Sainsbury's are able to offer better savings rates.

The story of Alliance & Leicester retail bank is typical of many of the telephone banks. A&L Giro pioneered telephone banking in the mid-Seventies, with an office of 12 staff in Liverpool. Initially the telephone banking operation was simple, customers who worked unusual office hours, or who did not have the chance to get to bank could phone up to get details of their balance. Now A&L Giro offers a full range of banking services to its 1.6 million customers. An Alliance & Leicester spokesman said that its customers made more

than one million calls a month. "The calls are made on a 24-hour basis. Many people phone up with basic calls about their finances and then move on to discuss their affairs in more detail." He said the calls tended to be grouped towards the end of the month, as customers made adjustments to their accounts to ensure that they did not become overdrawn.

Telephone banking moved into the mass market with the launch of First Direct six years ago. First Direct is part of Midland Bank, whose parent, HSBC Holdings, announced record half-year profits yesterday. First Direct boasts 755,000 customers and is attracting new accounts at a rate of 12,500 a month. A First Direct spokeswoman said two-thirds of its new customers came from the existing banks and building societies and were attracted by the convenience offered by telephone banking.

First Direct's contribution to Midland's £829 million profit was not disclosed yesterday. However, the bank did admit that it had put more money in to its telephone banking operations by opening up a new call centre in Hamilton, central Scotland. Entering the telephone banking market does come at a price. Analysts believe that First Direct only became profitable for the bank after five years. Sainsbury's Bank, which after all, does not offer overdraft facilities, or personal loans, is expected to cost about £30 million to set up. Direct Line, which pioneered selling motor insurance over the phone, has had significantly less success with its banking services, as it, like Sainsbury's, does not offer a current account. Instead it is pinning the success of its banking arm on offering high-rated savings accounts — to date it has attracted 53,742 savers. It offers rates of between 5.35 and 6.4 per cent.

The other high street clearers tend to offer telephone banking in addition to their branch service. Lloyds inherited TSB's telephone banking operations when it took over TSB. Lloyds believes that there is a market for both branch and telephone banking.

With so many new players entering the banking market, all of which are willing to throw millions of pounds into the business of banking in order to make an impact, Mr Branson and Virgin Direct's co-backers AMP must be prepared to have very deep pockets if they are to emulate Virgin Direct's success in the selling of personal equity plans to the mass market.

CHRIS AYRES

Third of small firms 'overcharged'

HIGH STREET banks are overcharging as many as one in three small businesses by electronically putting crippling rates of interest on their overdrafts by default.

Evidence from the National Association of Bank Customers and Bankcalc, which has reclaimed more than £4 million in excess charges, shows that when banks fail to specify interest rates for individual customers, their computers

automatically charge them a punitive 29 per cent rate.

Experts have also discovered that it is almost impossible for small businesses to work out if they have been overcharged, because banks often print the wrong balance on monthly statements.

Stuart Cliffe, of the National Association of Bank Customers, said: "The balance which is shown on your account is not the cleared balance in your

bank account. But it's the cleared balance that your interest charges are made on."

The findings will call into question the 12-point code of practice drawn up by the British Bankers' Association last month to improve the working relationship between banks and small businesses.

The Federation of Small Businesses believes the problem of overcharging can be solved only by bank manag-

ers building up long-term relationships with customers, and by small companies making written interest rate agreements with their banks.

David Gold, chief executive of Bankcalc, said: "We estimate that up to one in three small businesses are being overcharged. It is not unusual for a company to lose between £10,000 and £15,000."

CHRIS AYRES

Moved to tears

MARJORIE SCARDINO, chief executive of Pearson, cannot be accused of shirking in the six months since she signed up with the group, whose interests range from Madame Tussaud's to the Financial Times.

In 124 days (not counting weekends), she claims to have endured 852 hours of meetings, travelled to 24 offices in five countries, read 20,000 pieces of paper (she was counting), written 10,000 pieces of paper, given

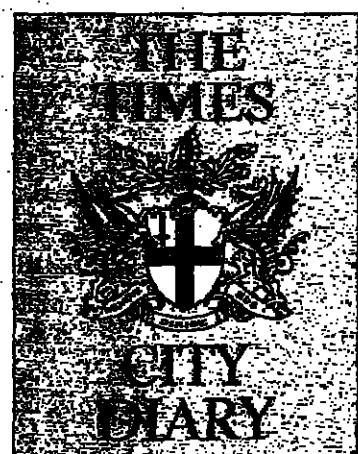
46 presentations to shareholders, analysts, journalists and staff, and spent "far too much time" with bankers and lawyers.

Scardino has received photographs from the staff of Pearson's Australian office, been sent baseball caps from an unknown source, and muscled in on a meeting in New York, where she collected a sweatshirt, and "a pair of eyeballs that popped out of my head." Intriguingly, she has laughed about 1,000 times, and "had the urge to cry only once."

What was it that moved her to tears? Could it have been news of the loss of Ray Snoddy, media guru at the FT and soon to join this newspaper? Whatever, unravelling Pearson's results yesterday, she felt moved to cite Snoddy as an example of how Pearson assets could be used across the company, as in Snoddy "online". Tears indeed.

Change of crew

THE slave ship Barclays de Zoete Wedd (BZW) has plucked a couple of castaways from the rat-infested waters of the Thames. Naguib Kheraj, one-time chief financial officer (Europe) for Salomon Brothers, has been made chief administrative officer. Nick Kelly, formerly with UBS



and JP Morgan, joins as human resources director. Bailing out in the nick of time, meanwhile, is Khalid Rahim, who has quit as managing director of corporate finance at BZW after 11 years with the firm to join Forman Hardy Holdings as chief executive. Rahim advised the Forman Hardy family when it sold the Nottingham Evening Post to the Daily Mail group for £93 million.

Elsewhere, the Titanic-like hulk, NatWest Markets, has shed Nick Riley, former chief administrative officer of global financial markets. Riley is joining Credit Suisse First Boston in London as managing director and head of European Operations. He is on gardening leave at present.

Off to the wilds

POOR old BG, née British Gas. It had to eat much humble pie several weeks ago when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission backed Clare Spottiswoode's pricing plans. Now, staff in the corporate office, the palatial Adelphi just off the Strand, replete with river views, have had to pack their bags and decamp to the wilds of Berkshire.

Hardly in the fast lane, BG's new corporate offices are now in Thames Valley Park Drive. But not all of BG's staff will be making the drive westwards. Richard Giordano, whose contract entitles him to an office and secretary after his retirement, will remain London based. He, along with chief executive David Varney and deputy chairman Philip Rogerson, will move to an altogether more downtown location in offices in Jermyn Street, Piccadilly.

Although the trio will also have offices in the Reading outpost they will spend most of their time in London with a small pocket of other staff.

■ COMPETITION between Tory and Labour MPs to be the first with a "paperless" office has proved a boon for Ted Clark, head of DPA-Egami, the OREF-listed developer of electronic document management systems. A mailshot to the House of Commons has already snared two

victims — Sir Paul Beresford, Conservative MP for Mole Valley in Surrey, and George Turner, Labour MP for Norfolk North West.

Sir Paul, a favourite of Baroness Thatcher in his days as leader of Wandsworth Council in southwest London, needs the system to cope with the 17,000 letters he receives each year from his constituents. Dr Turner has greater ambitions. Former head of electronics at the University of East Anglia, he sees the system as a first step towards a "paperless" Parliament.

JON ASHWORTH



Richard Giordano is moving to an altogether more downtown location in Jermyn Street

BUSINESS LETTERS

The simple message is don't wait for mutuals to disappear

From the Chief Executive, Market Harborough Building Society

Sir, The economic principles of the so-called mutual v plc debate have been well rehearsed. But the mutualism debate is not simply an esoteric one about economic principles. It's about real people, real jobs, real investment in the community and that gives mutualism a social and a political dimension.

Claims that we live in an amoral age appear to be well founded if my latest experience as chief executive of a small building society is anything to go by. During the last few weeks I have witnessed nearly 1,000 accounts being opened by people seeking to plunder the society's capital accumulated since 1870 by our well-intentioned forebears.

Listening in to the so-called "carpetbaggers" conversations on the telephone as they openly (and often rudely) state their intentions to gain something for nothing, demonstrates the frightening avarice of one segment of our population.

Perhaps these people don't realise how a small society supports a local infrastructure, employs people, contributes to the local economy by purchasing goods and services locally, funds local community causes and provides a valuable personal service in rural locations larger financial organisations have vacated. Or perhaps they simply don't care. It's up to the building society industry and those who do really care about the self-help ethos to put across the social consequences of the carpetbagging mentality.

We know the economic principles of mutualism and we know the social desirability of retaining mutual organisations. But what of the political dimensions? There simply has to be a political will for the economic and social principles of mutualism to survive. The background of the current Government is

a manifestation of the co-operative spirit and it appears that mutual principles sit well with new Labour's outlook. That's not to say small societies need protection from the normal cut and thrust of competitive enterprise — they can cope readily with that — but what is needed is positive discrimination against those seeking to disenfranchise future generations from the ability to invest and borrow from a local mutual organisation.

So what can be done? The Building Societies Act 1997, introduced by the last Tory Government, created many welcome freedoms for societies. But there are sanctions that could be suspended or amended which would help. A moratorium suspending conversions may be an answer, or an alteration to the length of time to qualify for a windfall from two years to five years, or perhaps a re-introduction of deposit accounts to create an alternative to the shareholding number. Whichever of these, (or perhaps more radical solutions I haven't thought of), it doesn't matter. What does matter is that there is a political will to support the principle of mutualism and to avert the disastrous social and economic consequences of a substantial reduction in the mutual building society sector.

Political parties of all persuasions agree that competition through a mix of personal financial service providers is desirable. What they — and the rest of us — must do can be summarised in one simple message.

Don't wait for the mutuals to disappear before you support them.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP R. DEARING,
Chief Executive,
Market Harborough Building Society,
Welland House,
The Square,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire.

Sense needed to reverse ruinous rates

From Mr A. Hamer

Sir, Commentary by your City Editor (Business News, July 24), with the heading "The Bank that needs to say no", could not be more appropriate.

However, your reporting and tone on this subject needs to be stronger in the hope that both our Gordon and Eddie knock their heads together to produce some common sense interest rates, and, above all, some reversal of the ruinous exchange rate.

Quoting the 25 per cent rise in sterling in a year falls short of the facts. I make my rate increase with Holland

(religiously following DM) 32.31 per cent since April 1996. A drop of virtually one third, not one quarter, in such a short period of time, takes away all hope of talking practical steps to cope. I am sure (but not reported) that a huge number of companies and individuals are literally gasping for breath before failing, unless some action is taken quickly to halt the pound's rise.

Yours sincerely,
A. HAMER,
Castle Lane House,
Castle Lane,
Warwick,
Warwickshire.

UP YOUR INTEREST RATE

property n. Brit. 1 leaf tea served from a silver pot (usu. *Earl Grey*, *English Breakfast* etc.) 2 something owned; a possession, esp. real estate.

leasehold n. & adj. 1 judo grip in which an opponent is partly restrained (half lease) or completely restrained (full lease) 2 the holding of property.

tenants n. 1 mythical insects reputed to have the strength of several men 2 a gathering of your uncles' wives (best avoided) 3 persons holding real property by private ownership.

key money n. 1 the cost of harbouring one's yacht 2 expenses incurred in changing locks (usu. after burglary) 3 premium paid by an incoming tenant for premises.

estate n. 1 large four wheeled container for children, dogs, green wellies etc (usu. *Volvo*, *Merc* etc) 2 person's collective assets and liabilities 3 landed property.

For the definitive answers to your legal questions, call Rowe & Maw and open a few doors.

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This is your financial director speaking — we may experience some turbulence

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
10.50	10.40	Heineken	10.45	+0.05	18.5
10.20	10.10	Carlsberg	10.15	+0.05	17.5
10.10	10.00	Asahi	10.05	+0.05	16.5
10.00	9.90	Daewoo	9.95	+0.05	15.5
9.80	9.70	San Miguel	9.75	+0.05	14.5

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Barclays	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	HSBC	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Bank of America	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Wells Fargo	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Citigroup	0.78	+0.03	8.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.50	1.45	Guinness	1.48	+0.03	15.5
1.40	1.35	Harrogate	1.38	+0.03	14.5
1.30	1.25	Wetherspoons	1.28	+0.03	13.5
1.20	1.15	Beck's	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Miller	1.08	+0.03	11.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.80	1.75	Skanska	1.78	+0.03	18.5
1.70	1.65	Bechtel	1.68	+0.03	17.5
1.60	1.55	Parsons	1.58	+0.03	16.5
1.50	1.45	Fluor	1.48	+0.03	15.5
1.40	1.35	Stantec	1.38	+0.03	14.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Timberland	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Woolworth	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Debenhams	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Next	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Primark	0.78	+0.03	8.5

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.50	1.45	Shell	1.48	+0.03	15.5
1.40	1.35	BP	1.38	+0.03	14.5
1.30	1.25	Esso	1.28	+0.03	13.5
1.20	1.15	Agip	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Eni	1.08	+0.03	11.5

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Debenhams	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Next	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Primark	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Woolworth	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Timberland	0.78	+0.03	8.5

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Volvo	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	BMW	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Audi	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Mercedes	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Ford	0.78	+0.03	8.5

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.50	1.45	Unilever	1.48	+0.03	15.5
1.40	1.35	Nestle	1.38	+0.03	14.5
1.30	1.25	McCormick	1.28	+0.03	13.5
1.20	1.15	Archer-Daniels-Midland	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	ADM	1.08	+0.03	11.5

HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.80	1.75	Glaxo	1.78	+0.03	18.5
1.70	1.65	Pfizer	1.68	+0.03	17.5
1.60	1.55	Novartis	1.58	+0.03	16.5
1.50	1.45	Schering-Plough	1.48	+0.03	15.5
1.40	1.35	Roche	1.38	+0.03	14.5

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Debenhams	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Next	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Primark	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Woolworth	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Timberland	0.78	+0.03	8.5

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Aviva	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Prudential	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Legal & General	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Standard Life	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Scottish Widows	0.78	+0.03	8.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Investment Trust	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Investment Trust	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Investment Trust	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Investment Trust	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Investment Trust	0.78	+0.03	8.5

LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Accor Hotels	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	InterContinental	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Marriott	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Hyatt	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Westin	0.78	+0.03	8.5

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Anglo American	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	De Beers	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Platinum Group	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Gold Fields	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Impresso	0.78	+0.03	8.5

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Land Securities	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	British Land	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Centrica	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	British Telecom	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	BT Group	0.78	+0.03	8.5

RETAILERS, FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Asda	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Waitrose	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	John Lewis	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Debenhams	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Next	0.78	+0.03	8.5

RETAILERS, GENERAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Debenhams	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Next	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Primark	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Woolworth	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Timberland	0.78	+0.03	8.5

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Thames Water	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	London Water	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Yorkshire Water	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Anglian Water	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	South West Water	0.78	+0.03	8.5

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Investment Trust	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Investment Trust	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Investment Trust	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Investment Trust	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Investment Trust	0.78	+0.03	8.5

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BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Investment Trust	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Investment Trust	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Investment Trust	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Investment Trust	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Investment Trust	0.78	+0.03	8.5

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Investment Trust	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Investment Trust	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Investment Trust	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Investment Trust	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Investment Trust	0.78	+0.03	8.5

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Investment Trust	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Investment Trust	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Investment Trust	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Investment Trust	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Investment Trust	0.78	+0.03	8.5

UNDATED

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Investment Trust	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Investment Trust	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Investment Trust	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Investment Trust	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Investment Trust	0.78	+0.03	8.5

2001

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Investment Trust	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Investment Trust	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Investment Trust	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Investment Trust	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Investment Trust	0.78	+0.03	8.5

2002

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Investment Trust	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Investment Trust	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Investment Trust	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Investment Trust	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Investment Trust	0.78	+0.03	8.5

2003

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	PE
1.20	1.15	Investment Trust	1.18	+0.03	12.5
1.10	1.05	Investment Trust	1.08	+0.03	11.5
1.00	0.95	Investment Trust	0.98	+0.03	10.5
0.90	0.85	Investment Trust	0.88	+0.03	9.5
0.80	0.75	Investment Trust	0.78	+0.03	8.5

EU initiative to stimulate the use of technology

BY IOLA SMITH

Mr Wells specialises in watercolour landscapes, but teaches in all media — watercolour, oils, pastels and acrylics. Absolutely everything is provided for the artists — chairs, easels, art materials and transport. "All the paraphernalia," he said. "All they have to bring with them is enthusiasm. Our painting holidays

Homework: Hilary and Tim Wells in the grounds of their Northumberland home and painting school

Ms Wells includes only the best in the directory. "I check each one carefully every year," she says. "If the tutor refers to his students as clients or punters instead of guests or painters, I'm on my guard. The attitude of the tutor/pupil relationship is so important. The ambience on a painting holiday counts almost as much as the skilled tuition."

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SELF-ASSESSMENT
- A Clearer tax system

WILLIAMSON
1980-81

ACCOUNTANT'S RETURN
RETURN

"The only clear thing about it is it's more confusing!"

□ Tessa Graham, a partner in Baker Tilly, the London accountancy firm, has become the only private-sector member of the Government's Access Business project. The project has been set up to co-ordinate regulatory information from local authorities and Whitehall.

David Rowe-Beddoe says technology beats geographical drawbacks

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Court of Appeal

Law Report August 5 1997

Court of Appeal

Company inquiry inappropriate

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v. Jabbie and Others

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Goff

[Judgment July 22]

It was not appropriate in company director disqualification proceedings to require the company to be put to the test of a director's honesty.

The Court of Appeal held in allowing an appeal brought by Harbajan S. Jabbie, Jagjit S. Jabbie, Mahan S. Jabbie and Surinder S. Jabbie, the four former directors of Melvor Spinning Ltd, against the decision of Sir John Knox, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division on January 24, 1997 when he held that the appointment of the administrative receiver was valid.

Section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 provides:

"The court shall make a disqualification order against a person... (a) that he is or has been a director of a company which has at any time become insolvent (whether while he was a director or

subsequently) and, (b) that his conduct as a director of that company... taken together with his conduct as a director of any other company or companies makes him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company."

Mr. Richard Peckoff for the former directors, Mr. Guy Newey for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that on December 17, 1991 Melvor Spinning Ltd executed a floating charge in favour of Hill Samuel Bank. On December 30, Melvor executed a guarantee.

On February 2, 1992 the bank called in the guarantee and when it was not honoured appointed an administrative receiver. The receivership was completed on January 18, 1993 and Melvor was struck off the register of companies on March 22, 1994.

On February 9, 1994, the secretary of state issued an originating summons under section 6 of the 1986 Act seeking to disqualify the four directors of Melvor who were the appellants in the Court of Appeal.

When the disqualification proceedings were issued, Melvor, its parent company Jabbie, and two associated companies were all in receivership. It was more than two years since Jabbie and the two other companies had gone into receivership but less than two years since the appointment of the administrative receiver of Melvor.

The appointment of an administrative receiver had the effect of treating the company as insolvent for the purposes of sections 5 and 6 of the 1986 Act and founded the jurisdiction of the court to disqualify the directors and commenced the two-year period in which to disqualify.

It might have been thought that the appointment of an administrative receiver was the end of the matter, but the four directors claimed that the debenture and guarantee were conditional upon the provision of a collective overdraft facility to the Jabbie group. They argued that that condition had not been satisfied and the appointment of the administrative receiver was accordingly invalid.

The directors issued a summons in the disqualification proceedings for the determination as to whether the appointment of a receiver was valid or not. Mr. Registrar Buckley ordered that to be tried as a preliminary issue. Sir John Knox held that it was valid. The former directors appealed.

Their Lordships were accord-

ingly being asked to pronounce on the validity of a debenture and guarantee in proceedings to which neither the company, bank or administrative receiver was a party.

In his Lordship's judgment the proceedings were completely misconceived. It was now more than five years since the appointment of the receiver which Melvor had not challenged at the time.

The receivership was long since spent and the assets all distributed. The directors never took any steps to replace themselves or procure proceedings to challenge the appointment of the administrative receiver.

In his Lordship's judgment, the preliminary issue should not have been ordered. The proper course would have been to stay or adjourn the disqualification proceedings to allow the company in question to bring proceedings against the debenture holder.

It was now four years between the appointment of the receiver and the application to court, it was almost out of the question that the court would now intervene.

Lord Justice Goff agreed and Lord Justice Staughton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Bloom Camlin; Treasury Solicitor.

No obligation to hold inquiry

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another, Ex parte O'Keefe and Another

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Mummery and Sir Ralph Gibson

[Judgment July 29]

The Secretary of State for the Environment was under no obligation to continue to hold a local inquiry into a disputed right of way when the only objection to it had been withdrawn.

Survey cards collected by the local authority could constitute a "statement" under section 27(4) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which did not require the statement to be any particular form or to be physically attached to the definitive map of rights of way drawn up by the local authority.

The local authority's rights of way subcommittee was the appropriate body to consider the application of the Highways Act 1980 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to the evidence for the existence of the claimed right of way.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Anna Maria O'Keefe and Michael John Cameron O'Keefe against the dismissal by Mr Justice Pill on June 24, 1994 of their application for an order that the confirmation by the Secretary of State for the Environment on July 3, 1992 of the Wandsworth Council, Chislehurst, Isle of Wight Modification Order No 1 1991 made by the second respondent, the Isle of Wight County Council, be quashed.

Mr O'Keefe in person; Mr Nigel Fleming, QC, for the secretary of state; Mr David Brahm, QC, for the Isle of Wight County Council.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said the challenge to the order involved the construction and application of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Highways Act 1980 to a long-running and heated dispute about a claimed public footpath.

The footpath had already been the subject of a successful application for judicial review before Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny on February 10, 1989, who quashed an earlier modification made by the council. *Regina v Isle of Wight County Council, Ex parte O'Keefe* (1989) 59 P & CR 263.

Mrs O'Keefe had bought 35 acres of land near Chislehurst in 1986 and she and her husband had resisted attempts to include a disputed public footpath in the definitive map and statement prepared by the council under section 32 of the 1949 Act. The order they were challenging was made by the council's rights of way subcommittee on January 10, 1991.

The committee had examined evidence and concluded that there was sufficient evidence of use by the public over a 20-year period, uninterrupted and as of right, that the character of the way was appropriate to public use and that there was no evidence that the owners had no intention during the 20-year period to dedicate it.

The O'Keefes had objected to the modification order and had also applied for judicial review. The court was precluded by *R v Cornwall County Council, Ex parte Huntington* (The Times March 5, 1992) from entertaining their application for review until the order had been confirmed, so the O'Keefes withdrew their objection, the planned local inquiry did not go ahead and the Secretary of State's inspector confirmed the order.

The relevant provisions of the 1949 Act had been intended to avoid timeous and expensive litigation over disputed rights of way, and empowered local authorities to keep definitive maps and statements as a permanent, up-to-date and conclusive record of footpaths.

The court's only function was to decide whether Mr Justice Pill was

right or wrong to reject the challenge to the validity of the order.

There was no substantial prejudice to the O'Keefes in the decision not to hold a local inquiry, since they had expressly withdrawn their objection, which was the only objection, so that the order could be confirmed. That had not prevented them pursuing their challenge to the council's decision-making process.

Mr O'Keefe had contended that the county council had wrongly left it to district and parish councils to survey footpaths and had wrongly treated the survey cards as the end result, so that there was no definitive map or statement complying with the requirements of the legislation.

Mr Justice Pill had held that a "statement" was in existence, even though the survey cards were not physically annexed to the map. In his Lordship's judgment that was correct. The cards were a statement for the purposes of the legislation and with the map constituted substantial compliance with the statutory requirements.

Mr O'Keefe had challenged on what he had called administrative and constitutional law grounds the council's power to make the order. He had claimed that the council had no power to create a public footpath across his wife's land without a prior judicial determination of the facts and the law.

The council could only record existing rights of way and had no power to adjudicate on disputed property rights, he said. Disputed new rights could not be created by administrative actions of a recording authority.

Those arguments were contrary to the object of the legislation and misinterpreted the scheme and context of the statutory procedure for attaining that object. The subcommittee had addressed itself to the relevant issue, whether the public use without interruption for 20 years was in the honest belief in a legal right to use it as a public footpath.

There was ample material to support the view that the user was peaceful, open, not by permission and as of right.

Lord Justice Hirst and Sir Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Sharpe Pritchard for Mr. R. Hetherington, Newport, Isle of Wight.

Injunctive orders improper when defining contact

In re D (a Minor) (Contact orders: Conditions)

Before Sir Stephen Brown, President and Lord Justice Saville

[Judgment July 10]

When making an order for defined contact between a child and a parent it was outside the power of the court to impose conditions which were wholly inappropriate to use section 11(7) of the Children Act 1989 to make orders in the manner of injunctions which related more to the protection of the mother from perceived harassment than to the management of the contact. In family proceedings any such orders were more properly made by the High Court in the exercise of its inherent jurisdiction.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal, in part, by the father against the decision of Judge Hunter dated July 15, 1996 at Wandsworth County Court when he ordered, inter alia, that the father should have contact with the child under section 8 of the 1989 Act subject to conditions imposed under section 11(7) with a penal notice attached.

Mr Patrick Roche for the father; Mr Charles Howard for the mother.

THE PRESIDENT said that there was no dispute that the child

aged seven wanted, and should have contact with the father. However, the relationship between the parents, who had never been married, was strained and there had been an unprecedented number of court proceedings during a long and acrimonious history.

The judge was clearly anxious to protect the mother from what he had found to be a vindictive campaign by the father and when making the section 8 order for contact he also made 11 injunction-type orders under section 11(7) of the 1989 Act.

Those ranged, inter alia, from prohibiting the father from removing the child or attempting to obtain a passport for her to forbidding him to molest the mother or her relatives, from entering the family home, from premises belonging to those relatives, from corresponding with the mother's employers, and from starting any private prosecution against her.

While conceding that the first two examples might be certain to be considered properly related to contact, the father contended that the others were connected to the mother's perceived need for protection and were more readily characterised as injunctions relating to proceedings for trespass, assault or domestic violence and

wholly inappropriate when attached to a contact order.

His Lordship said that great care needed to be exercised when trying to impose injunctive-type conditions under section 11(7) of the 1989 Act: it was doubtful that orders designed to protect and reassure a mother and carrying a risk of commitment to prison for breach could be made under that section.

In family proceedings such orders were more properly made by the High Court in the exercise of its inherent jurisdiction. It was wholly inappropriate and outside the judge's powers to impose them as conditions attaching to a contact order.

On that basis the case should be transferred to the High Court for the review hearing; meanwhile the appeal would be allowed in respect of those orders which were clearly designed to alleviate the mother's anxieties but which had no direct bearing on the implementation of the contact order.

The conditions which the father had conceded as having a direct bearing on contact, or which were designed to keep the parties themselves apart, should stand.

Lord Justice Saville agreed.

Solicitors: Hay & Co; Bates, Wells & Braithwaite.

Golf club steward self-employed for tax

McManus (John) v Griffiths (Inspector of Taxes)

McManus (Diane) v Same

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment July 18]

The profits earned by a taxpayer from providing catering services at a golf club under the terms of a contract that was expressed as a contract of employment were chargeable to income tax under Case 1 of Schedule D and not under Schedule E.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing appeals by the taxpayers, John and Diane McManus, from the determination of Peterborough district commissioners upholding assessments on them under Case 1 of Schedule D for the years from 1980/81 to 1991/92.

Mr Stephen Silman for the taxpayers; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said the novel issue of law raised was whether the profits earned by Mrs McManus from carrying on the catering business at Burghley Park Golf Club fell within the ambit of Schedule D or, as she contended, Schedule E. She and her husband were the sole owners of the club.

contract between the parties as being employed as steward and stewardess of the club.

She was responsible for all the food, its purchase and preparation, and for engaging and paying any staff required to help her. The club provided her with all necessary equipment.

The contract described itself as a contract of employment. It made Mrs McManus alone responsible for providing catering and for the payment of all money received therefrom. It provided for termination of the contractual relationship on three months notice by either side.

Schedule D imposed a charge to tax on profits arising or accruing to any person from any trade, Schedule E imposed a charge on the emoluments of an office or employment. There were substantial tax consequences depending on whether an item of income fell within one or the other.

Mrs McManus was carrying on the catering business on her own account. The position was not affected by the fact that the club provided the premises, equipment and services necessary for her to do so.

It had no entitlement to or participation in the profits of the business or even a right to know what they were. Unless it could be shown that Mrs McManus provided the catering services as an employee of the club, the profits had to be assessed under Schedule D.

She contended that she was employed under a contract of employment, that the carrying on of the catering business was pursuant to an obligation imposed on her as an employee by that contract and accordingly the profits, indeed the gross receipts, of the business constituted an emolument from that employment.

The question depended solely on the construction of the contractual documents viewed in the matrix of facts in which they were signed. Accordingly, it was a question of law, not as the Crown contended, one of mixed fact and law.

The contractual documents had not been professionally drafted. The importance of whether Mrs McManus was an employee or self-employed, most particularly for PAYE and VAT purposes, had not been appreciated by the parties.

There were some indicia in favour of holding her to be an employee: the provisions regulating her vacations and the fact that the club provided the premises, equipment and services. The language of employment permeated the documents.

On the other hand, the indicia in favour of holding Mrs McManus to be self-employed appeared overwhelming. She was in business on her own account; not subject to the control of the club in respect of the menu or prices or how the business was to be conducted, and she had a free hand in the employment of staff.

In short she was her own boss. The scenario painted by the contractual documents was scarcely compatible with that of an employer/employee relationship. She had, in effect, a catering concession at the club.

It was totally unreal to treat the profits as an emolument of her employment. Her employment gave her the opportunity and indeed required her to trade on her own account, and accordingly was the causa sine qua non of her earning the profits made.

But the profits were the profits of her business. Trading and not employment was the causa causans of the receipts. Accordingly they fell within Schedule D and were not an emolument of her employment.

Solicitors: Aitken Kelly Associates, Islington; Solicitor, Inland Revenue.

Sentencing guidelines in LSD cases

Regina v Hurley

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Mantell and Mr Justice Dyson

[Judgment July 28]

Guidelines for sentencing in cases of possession of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) were laid down by the Court of Appeal.

The court was giving guidance in an appeal against the sentence of 14 years imprisonment imposed at Southwark Crown Court by Judge Rivlin on Joseph Robert Hurley who had pleaded guilty to possessing a Class A drug with intent to supply contrary to section 4(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Police had seized 310 sheets of paper impregnated with LSD and divisible into quarter-inch squares, yielding 260,000 units and representing one of the largest seizures of LSD in many years.

At about £3.75 for a unit the projected receipts exceeded £1,000,000. About eight grams of LSD had been used for the 310 sheets and the average LSD content of the squares was 31 micrograms.

Mr Rudi Fortson, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Miss Louise Kamill for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.

While the statements considered by the Judicial Committee in *Ajodha v The State* (1982) AC 204 were written statements, the principle stated therein applied also to oral admissions.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Nolan, Lord Steyn, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Hutton) so stated on June 23 in allowing appeals by the appellants, Thongjai v The Queen, Lee Chun-kong v The Queen.

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giving the judgment of the court, said that their Lordships had been asked to give sentencing guidance in LSD cases.

The Court of Appeal had expressly declined to do that in *R v Aranguren* (The Times June 28, 1994; [1995] 1 Cr App R (S) 211, 212) but had revised previous sentencing for unlawful importation of heroin and cocaine so as to relate the level of sentencing to the quantity of the drugs at 100 per cent purity.

Their Lordships proposed to accede to the invitation to give some guidance in the present appeal. It was not for their Lordships to draw distinctions between

different Class A drugs.

In their Lordships' judgment, in the case of 25,000 or more quarter-inch squares or dosage units the sentence should be 10 years plus. For 250,000 or more dosage units the sentence should ordinarily be 14 years plus.

In each case their Lordships assumed that the dosage unit was of approximately 50 micrograms content pure LSD. Adjustment might be needed when it was shown to vary significantly from that figure.

Where the seizure was of tablets or crystals in a form which enabled a precise weight to be ascertained readily and easily there should be

no problem in calculating the number of 50 microgram doses.

Their Lordships wished to make clear that the guidance was not a straitjacket. They appreciated that cases might arise where for good reason the sentencing level could vary appropriately. Sentences had to retain a measure of flexibility to do justice in individual cases.

Had the appellant fought the case the appropriate sentence would have been 12 or 13 years. As it was a plea of guilty the proper sentence would have been 10 years and accordingly the appeal would be allowed, the 14-year sentence quashed and 10 years substituted.

Solicitors: CPS, London.

When oral admission is disputed

Thongjai v The Queen

Lee Chun-kong v The Queen

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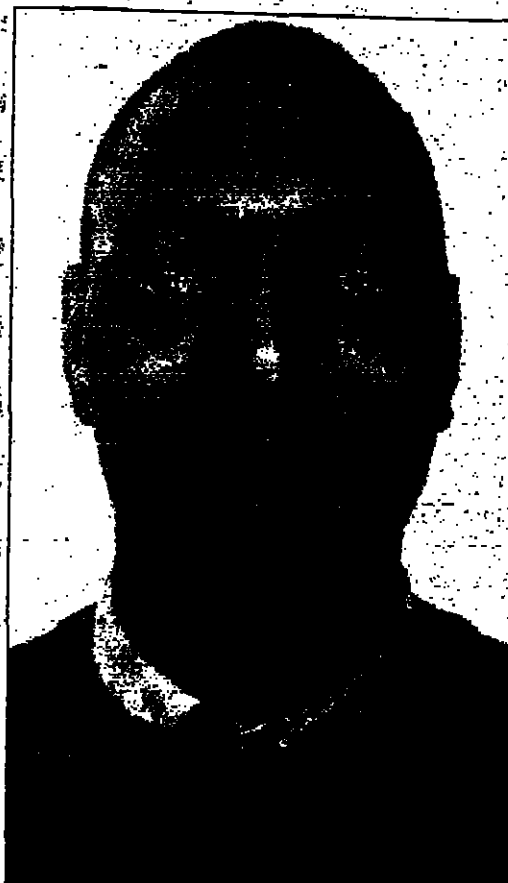
Open a



July 10 1997

LAW

● JUDICIAL REFORM 35
● LAW REPORT 31



Shiji Lapite, whose widow challenged a decision not to prosecute two Metropolitan Police officers: Barbara Mills, QC, and Derek Treadaway, who won on appeal



Open a door for justice

The DPP rethinking decisions, talk of urgent inquiries
... Graham Smith looks at the CPS and the police

Serious failings in procedures for bringing criminal prosecutions against police officers were exposed in the Divisional Court last month. A few days later, an embarrassed Director of Public Prosecutions, Dame Barbara Mills, announced there would be an "urgent inquiry" into the handling of serious complaints by CPS Central Casework.

Interviewed by the BBC that evening, Dame Barbara prevaricated when asked, after the death of Richard O'Brien in custody, whether she was responsible for decisions not to prosecute police officers, then responded by pondering the difference between a decision and the approval of a decision. Last week the DPP was ordered to reconsider her decision not to prosecute police officers in a case involving allegations of a forced confession.

It is crucial to remember that decisions on prosecutions of police officers are the sole responsibility of the DPP and that those decisions, when they concern possible criminal proceedings, are made at the final stage of the police complaints process. And in the event of a decision not to prosecute, the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) has ultimate responsibility for bringing disciplinary charges against police officers.

Home Office figures show that in 1995-96 45 police officers in England and Wales

were convicted of criminal offences and 410 were disciplined. But only a fraction of these totals originated in complaints by members of the public. A total of 35,521 complaints was recorded in the same year, of which 749 were substantiated. Criminal proceedings were brought in ten cases and disciplinary charges in a total of 162, of which 117 were proved.

Though the apparent bias in police complaints findings has attracted public criticism, challenging the decisions of the police, DPP and PCA in the courts has proved difficult. Each institution has a high degree of autonomy and rarely has evidence been available to support litigation.

The applications for judicial review heard at the Divisional Court were exceptional in that the DPP decided not to prosecute police officers after findings in non-criminal courts that supported the allegations against them. These failures provided an opportunity for a legal challenge to the DPP.

Alison O'Brien sought to review the DPP's decision not to prosecute five Metropolitan Police officers for manslaughter after the death of Richard, her husband. Olamide Jones, the widow of Shiji Lapite, challenged a similar decision, together with the failure of the PCA to insist that the two Met officers involved in her husband's arrest face disciplinary charges. Juries in the inquests into the deaths of Mr O'Brien and Mr Lapite had returned verdicts of unlawful killing.

Mr Treadaway sought to review the DPP's decision not to prosecute four West Mid-

lands Serious Crime Squad officers for assault and for attempting to pervert the course of justice after a High Court judge had awarded him damages for assault.

These applications served as a catalyst, culminating in the exposure of apparent maladministration in CPS Central Casework. The PCA was the first to recognise the error of its ways. By letter and affidavit before the hearing, the PCA acknowledged that it had allowed itself to be persuaded

the weight of contradictory documentary evidence that precluded identification of the official responsible or the reasons for the final decision.

Notwithstanding acceptance of fault in the decision-making process in two cases, the DPP maintained the validity of the decision not to proceed against the West Midlands officers.

In attempting to account for the catastrophic turn of events, Dame Barbara explained the Lapite and O'Brien decisions as isolated incidents in a department that deals with 11,000 cases annually.

A figure for the number of police complaints considered by CPS Central Casework is not available. But it will be nowhere near that amount. Fewer than 9,000 police complaints investigations were completed in 1995-96. Chief officers are required only to forward reports to the DPP if there is an indication that a criminal offence has been committed. These three cases were the first of their kind to be brought against the DPP and, given the statistical evidence, the flaws exposed can be taken as symptomatic of all decisions on prosecutions of police officers.

The retired circuit judge Gerald Butler is to head the DPP's inquiry into the handling of deaths in police and prison custody and serious allegations of assault against police officers. Inevitably, this will also require examination of the quality of information forwarded to the DPP for consideration in the form of police reports, and the working relations between the CPS and police officers.



O'Brien: unlawfully killed, said jury

against recommending disciplinary charges in the Lapite case for reasons that were subsequently found to be flawed.

Soon after, Dame Barbara admitted to an error in law and a failure to consider properly the evidence with regard to her conclusion that Mr Lapite's death may have been accidental.

The DPP's attempt to defend her decision not to prosecute the officers involved in Mr O'Brien's arrest collapsed on the second day of the hearing. She conceded the case under

Hong Kong fails a test of statehood

When a Hong Kong corporation sued two New York corporations recently in a New York federal court, the court had to consider whether Hong Kong was a "state" for the purpose of American law. It held that it was not, and dismissed the case, and the dismissal was affirmed by the court of appeals in a two-to-one decision. English law would have permitted the suit in an English court, assuming that jurisdictional requirements were satisfied.

Federal courts in America are courts of limited jurisdiction. Normally, cases may be brought there only when there is a claim arising under federal law. Another possibility is an action between "citizens of a state [of the United States] and citizens or subjects of a foreign state". This is referred to as "alienage jurisdiction".

For jurisdictional purposes, a corporation is a "citizen" or "subject" of the governmental entity under whose sovereignty it is created.

Thus, the plaintiff Hong Kong corporation, Matimak Trading Co., based federal alienage jurisdiction on the claim that it was a citizen of Hong Kong. This triggered the judicial inquiry as to whether Hong Kong was a state, so that the claim could go forward, or whether Matimak was "stateless", so that the suit had to be dismissed.

Since the case was brought in August 1995, the American court analysed the legal status of Hong Kong as a British Crown Colony and not as it is now, a special administrative region of China. Matimak, the court reasoned, was incorporated under Hong Kong law and was entitled to the protections of that law only, even though the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance "may be ultimately traceable" to the British Crown.

In 1984, China agreed to maintain laws previously in force in Hong Kong. The effect of this "status quo" treaty presents an abiding problem for Hong Kong corporations seeking access to federal courts in the United States. China has a corporation law, effective on July 1994, that was modelled on the English Companies Act. Under the 1984 treaty, however, Hong Kong corporations such as Matimak will continue to be governed by the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance enacted under British rule rather than the Chinese corporation law, even though their corporate existence may be "ultimately traceable" to the People's Republic of China, a recognised sovereign international entity. Because a corporation is a creature of the State, the notion of a stateless corporation would seem oxymoronic. Yet, in the Matimak court's view, Hong Kong corporations are — like persons without a

country — stateless. Under the court's analysis, alienage jurisdiction would be available to a Chinese corporation organised and doing business in Beijing, but not to a Hong Kong corporation, and this applies both before and after the July 1 reversion.

The rationale of the decision is at odds with the position of the American Government. The United States has always recognised Hong Kong as a separate force in world affairs. American immigration laws accord special foreign State quota status to Hong Kong residents. In economics and trade, Hong Kong is recognised by Act of Congress as a separate legal entity. Its trade with the United States during November 1996 exceeded \$23 billion (about £14.5 billion) and direct United States investment totalled almost \$12 billion.

It is a contracting party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and thereby accorded most favoured nation status. It is a founding member of the World Trade Organisation and has acceded to the Paris Convention on industrial property, and the Berne, Geneva and Paris copyright conventions. American courts, moreover, have held other British Dependent Territories to be foreign States for the purpose of alienage jurisdiction.

The court's decision emphasised that the United States had never recognised Hong Kong as a free and independent sovereign and is not about to do so. This is undeniably true. The purpose of alienage jurisdiction is to avoid offence to foreign nations because of the possible appearance of judicial inhospitality to their citizens. There is also the American interest in assuring that American citizens will, by the same token, obtain access to foreign courts. But these considerations would not appear to apply where the foreign "nation" is not deemed a "sovereign", and there is no threat of entanglement with a foreign power.

The dissenting judge in the Matimak case observed that "Hong Kong is a unique and critical component in the scheme of international policies and global economic expansion". The reversion of Hong Kong to China under an international agreement to have "one country, two systems" is unique in world history. If Hong Kong is to continue as a separate international trading partner distinct from the mainland, its corporations ought to have access to the courts of other countries, just as Chinese corporations have that access. The historical reason for Hong Kong's peculiar status in the world should justify some judicial flexibility.

● The author is a litigator with the New York law firm Brown & Wood.



JAMES D. ZIRIN

The broader concerns of CPS management and efficiency will be addressed by a government review, due to report to the Attorney-General at the end of the year.

The British tradition of policing upholds that a police officer is subject to the rule of law the same as any other citizen. If a member of the public had behaved in the same way as the officers who arrested Lapite and O'Brien, that person would have been the subject of a criminal investigation within hours, charged within days and appeared before a public court within a year.

For police officers, the same decisions are made behind closed doors by police officers in the first instance, and then, in the CPS, by whom we know not.

● The author is conducting research at University College London into legal remedies to police misconduct.

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Bias is rife, study shows

A PRIVILEGED background and bluechip university still count when it comes to getting into the law.

The latest Law Society research, which was carried out by the Policy Studies Institute and based on about 4,000 graduates, confirms that discrimination continues in the legal profession and is widespread.

The study found that City law firms were 16 times more likely to offer a trainee place to Oxbridge students than to those from new universities. Twenty-two per cent of women and 9 per cent of ethnic minority trainees said they faced harassment or discrimination.

At the Bar, the problem was worse: 40 per cent of women and 33 per cent of ethnic minority pupils reported discrimination or harassment. More than 60 per cent of

trainees in high-street firms were paid below the minimum salary of £12,150 for central London and £10,850 for elsewhere. Two thirds of students were in debt to the tune of about £7,000.



A game for lawyers?

Rules of the game

AN NEW GUIDE to the laws on prostitution and the sex industry has been produced by Release, the national legal and drug advice service. See Work-

Briefs on the ball

THE white-collar crime specialist Peters & Peters caught its arch-rival, Kingsley Napley, napping last week when its football team beat theirs by two to one. Jonathan Tickner, of Peters & Peters, says: "We came from a goal behind to take the match." Keith Oliver, partner and oldest member of the P & P team, surprised his triumph as lead adviser to Kevin Maxwell by scoring one of the goals.

ers and the Law, by Penny Cotton, is a comprehensive guide complete with useful contact numbers.

As the guide points out, prostitution is legal, but many of the activities surrounding it are not. A full-scale review of the law, it says, is overdue. Details: 0171-729 9904.

Computers count

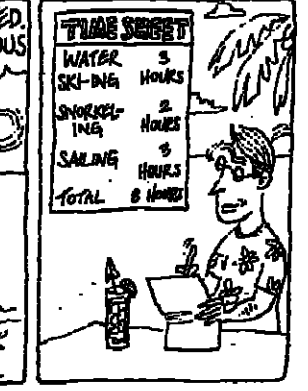
ANOTHER accolade for the law firm started by two redundant solicitors four years ago with a picnic table and no technology. Rundle Walker took second prize in the Best Use of IT category of the awards run by the Lawyer magazine and Halifax Independent Advisers. In January the Exeter firm took the Society for Computers and Law award for efficient IT use.

Mervyn Rundle said: "Technophobes think computerisation means the end of personal service, but our experience shows it frees you to develop real working relationships."

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السيد محمد الجليل

Next step for stipes

The time is right for judicial reform, says Peter Badge, a retiring senior stipendiary magistrate. Frances Gibb reports

A review of the prosecution system has been ordered by the Government because of concern over falling conviction rates. The Home Secretary wants to hear down on persistent offenders. The Lord Chief Justice has called for a Royal Commission. But for a quick snapshot of how the criminal justice system is working on the ground, Peter Badge is better placed than most.

Last week, aged 65, he retired after five years as Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate and more than 20 years as a "stipe" on the Metropolitan bench — in which he handled the first war crimes case as well as that of Rosemary West, the mass murderer.

"The most fundamental change in that time," he says, "is the level of sophistication in the courts — public interest immunity hearings, abuse of process. We did not have any of that at all 20 years ago."

The prevalence of drugs is another. "When I was first a stipendiary, I spent 13 years in the East End and it was relatively rare to have anything other than possession of cannabis. But every court now has drugs cases by the bucketful."

At Bow Street, where he was based, many of the crimes are theft in the shape of handbag snatches — usually to feed a drug habit, he says. "If resources were put into dealing with the very difficult problem of drug addiction, it would be infinitely more productive than building more prisons."

Mr Badge, who is married with four grown daughters, was born in Widnes, Cheshire, went to Ruthin School, North Wales, and Liverpool University. He began professional life as a prosecuting solicitor with New Scotland Yard, went into private practice and on to the bench in 1975. The change since then in the nature of the work and its complexity makes the time ripe, he argues, for an independent look at the "totality" of the criminal justice system — along the lines urged by Lord Bingham of Cornhill. "The magistracy's court is no longer a

single body of summary jurisdiction. It is more akin to a mini Crown Court and the level of legal knowledge and procedure required is extensive.

The Home Secretary is rumoured to favour a bigger role for stipendiaries, the 100 professional full-time magistrates — as opposed to the 30,000 lay justices — in England and Wales. Last week he announced that stipendiaries could sit on their own in youth courts. Mr Badge would back a greater role.

"I don't want to supplant the lay justices and I don't think we could, even if that was wanted," he says. "But we need a much wider spread of stipendiaries to deal with the complex cases and for lay justices to decide issues of pure fact."

He cites a recent report which concluded that one stipendiary was equal to 30 lay justices in terms of productivity. The administrative back-up would also be less. "In the end it would be cheaper."

His views will be listened to. One idea for speeding up the youth court is that stipendiaries would decide on guilt or innocence, and leave sentencing to a panel of magistrates or even, as in Scotland, of assessors with specialist knowledge. "I think stipes could rise to that challenge. We are the mercenaries of the judicial system and if called to do a job, are willing to do it." He also suggests re-classifying some crimes — such as possession of cannabis — so they no longer qualify for jury trial.

At a more fundamental level, he proposes a new court tier — a stipendiary sitting with lay justices with powers to deal with crimes carrying up to two years' imprisonment.

But improvements could be made to the existing system, he believes. A district attorney system to make the Crown Prosecution Service more localised would improve liaison between police and prosecutors, improve the chain of command and cut delays. Stipendiaries and judges generally were also worried about the "tendency to decide charges."



Peter Badge: courts have become more sophisticated

He added: "If it looks like a serious assault and blood was drawn, the charge is reduced to a Section 39 common assault which takes away the right to jury trial and it is tried by magistrates, which is cheaper." The CPS has improved from its early days, but it is under-funded, he says.

A second need — one also cited by Lord Bingham — would be to "beef up" community service so it is not seen as a soft option. "We must improve the way it is administered. I am not attacking the probation service, who do a good job. But we could set up community service run by former warrant officers on a strict regime. If someone turned up five minutes late, he or she would

have to go back to court to see if the community service order should be revoked."

For himself though, it is semi-retirement to Devon, to combine some Crown Court recorder work and sitting on mental health tribunals. The idea is to leave time for his part-time work on a PhD in maritime history at Exeter University. A founder member and chairman of the Coracle Society since 1988, he has what is thought to be the biggest collection of coracles in the world and both makes and uses them extensively. Criminal justice suddenly seems a long way away. "Coracles and curraachs," he confesses, "are my main obsession in life."

Jane Mann spots a ruling that could help dismissed workers

The courts and tribunals are increasingly scrutinising the behaviour of people at work and demanding higher standards of employers and employees alike.

In a recent landmark ruling, the House of Lords paved the way for employees to claim compensation if they suffer financial loss, such as failing to find another suitable job, because of the behaviour of their former bosses. The case was brought by two employees, Raihan Nasir Mahmud and Qaiser Mansoor Malik, who were made redundant after the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in 1991.

They argued that the bank operated corruptly and dishonestly, that they were innocent of any involvement, and that they were stigmatised by their association with the bank. The result, they said, was that their employment prospects were damaged and they suffered a financial loss.

The Lords confirmed that the bank, as employer, was under an implied obligation not to engage in conduct likely to undermine the trust and confidence required if the employment relationship were to continue. As part of this general obligation, the bank was also under an implied obligation to its employees not to conduct a dishonest or corrupt business.

But the law lords broke new ground when they considered the remedies available to the employees when the employer's conduct is likely to destroy or seriously damage the relationship between employer and employee.

An employee who becomes aware of such conduct has the option of leaving immediately. If he or she does so or is dismissed, they can claim for the loss resulting from the premature termination of their contract. Such loss would be the income for the notice period or the balance of their employment contract.

Until the BCCI ruling, this was thought to be the full extent of recoverable loss for breach of contract on the basis of a 1909 Lords decision in *Addis v Gramophone Co Ltd*. That case is taken to hold that an employee cannot recover damages for the way in which he is dismissed, for injured feelings or for any loss suffered by the adverse impact on his chances of obtaining another job.

Mr Mahmud and Mr Malik were claiming losses over damaged job prospects and the law lords held that this type of loss is now potentially recoverable. So an employer who breaches the trust and confidence term is now liable if he causes financial loss to the employee of a kind that was reasonably foreseeable.

A new remedy for employees



The London headquarters of BCCI, the bank that crashed

Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead commented: "Employees must take care not to damage their employer's future employment prospects by harsh and oppressive behaviour or by any other form of conduct which is unacceptable today as falling below the standards set by the implied trust and confidence term."

In the BCCI case, unacceptable conduct during the employment relationship was involved. But the Lords indicated that the manner and circumstances of a dismissal may also give rise to liability if loss occurs. They did not consider the question of compensation for "injury of feelings".

The type of loss recognised in the BCCI case is potentially recoverable in tribunal and High Court proceedings. In the tribunal, compensation for loss for unfair dismissal is limited to £11,300, but an employee can bring a separate action for contractual damages of up to £25,000.

Mr Mahmud and Mr Malik may still not win compensation because they have to establish that

they did suffer a foreseeable loss because of their association with BCCI. But the case remains potentially of great importance to employers and employees.

For many dismissed employees, it is how they were treated by their former bosses that most concerns them. Anger, a sense of injustice and a feeling that their standing has been lowered in the eyes of all who know them are common. The BCCI case potentially gives such employees a new remedy, but only if they can show that the employers' conduct was unacceptable and that they have consequently suffered foreseeable financial loss.

As for employers, they must now look to the impact of their conduct, including the way they conduct dismissals, on employees' future job prospects. They will have to take greater care not to make serious allegations against an employee without proper inquiries, nor to dismiss someone in a way that implies he is guilty of serious wrongdoing, when he is not. If they do, they may find themselves footing the bill when an employee cannot find a suitable new job as a result of their unreasonable behaviour.

● The author is an employment partner in Fox Williams, a City law firm.

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City practice, widely regarded as a market leader for property, requires a number of lawyers up to 5 years qualified to deal with top quality work in its prospering mainstream property development and PFI teams. If you have an outgoing personality and are of partnership calibre, then you will enjoy good quality work and an excellent remuneration package. (Ref:19469)

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RACING: JULY CUP WINNER AIMS FOR SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP IN NUNTHORPE

Compton Place lays claim to title

By CHRIS MCGRAITH

IF COMPTON PLACE is unlikely to be forgiven the efforts of his 50-1 success in the July Cup, he certainly seems to have been forgotten readily enough. But yesterday James Toller, his trainer, promised a reminder of his legitimate title to the sprint championship in the Nunthorpe Stakes at York in 16 days' time. It seems that the Knivesmire, formerly the site of public executions, remains a place of final judgment.

When a change of tactics enabled Compton Place, a rank outsider, to come from off the pace to beat the



Compton Place, the July Cup winner, reverts to five furlongs for the Nunthorpe Stakes at York's Ebor meeting

Nap: SWAN HUNTER (3.15 Cornick)
NB: Present Generation (3.00 Folkestone)

favourite, Royal Applause, at Newmarket last month, the connoisseurs were confirmed in their conviction that 1997 is a pedestrian vintage for sprinters.

Danetime, with a wide-eyed public following through the summer's top handicaps, has duly acquired an irresistible momentum towards the vacant crown after winning the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood on Saturday - a dramatic success, gaudily decorated by the £200,000 Michael Tabor won backing his colt.

But Toller believes that Danetime could find himself clutching in vain at the straw colours of his long-time partner, the Duke of Devonshire.

"What price would Compton Place have been off 8-10 in the Stewards' Cup?" he asked. "If I were a bookmaker, I would certainly make us favourite for that. In the event, bookmakers will be obliged to leave that decision to Tabor."

Unfortunately, Compton Place thrives on fast ground, which would eliminate Danetime and Toller confessed that he would not be amused if York were to water in an attempt to ensure good going.

"I maintain that it was the ground that beat us in the Gimcrack at last year's meeting," he said. "Seth Sanders said that he hit a patch that bogged him down in the last 50 yards; likewise in the Flying Children at Doncaster. But I am keen to go for the Nunthorpe, to show that he is an adaptable horse with bags of speed. He would have won the July Cup at five furlongs as well as six. If he can win there, perhaps people will accept him as the champion."

The Indian Ridge colt must certainly play his hand before the Prix de l'Abbaye in the autumn, as the going is likely to be soft in Paris.

Toller, 43, is enjoying a fine third season since moving from Newmarket to Wiltshire, where he shares facilities with David Elsworth. Back at the July Cup last Saturday, moreover, he was given cause to believe that he may have another star in the making among his string of just 25 horses.

Ripon
Going: good to firm
2.50 (1) 1. MARCONI MOSS (K. Fallon, 5-1) 2. MICKLETHORPE (D. J. Fox, 10-1) 3. PIGEON (W. Williams, 14-1) 4. ALSTON (R. 2-1) 5. RAY (J. 10-1) 6. HENRY (J. 10-1) 7. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 8. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 9. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 10. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 11. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 12. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 13. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 14. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 15. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 16. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 17. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 18. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 19. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 20. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 21. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 22. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 23. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 24. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 25. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 26. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 27. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 28. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 29. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 30. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 31. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 32. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 33. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 34. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 35. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 36. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 37. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 38. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 39. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 40. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 41. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 42. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 43. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 44. BOB DEE (J. 10-1) 45. 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Invisible man still desperate to emerge from the shadows

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN ATHENS

STEVE BACKLEY not only wants the javelin gold medal from the world championships here today, he regards it as imperative. "I need it," Backley said, almost desperate. Only then will he cease to become the figure he describes as "the invisible man".

Backley recognises that, for all he has achieved, he must take a global title if he is to enjoy lasting recognition of the kind which Jonathan Edwards, Linford Christie, Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell are guaranteed. Backley, aged 28, is a former world record holder, International Amateur Athletic Federation athlete of the year, and has been Commonwealth and European champion for the last seven years, but still he feels unfulfilled.

Finishing second in the Olympic Games last year was an extraordinary achievement, given that three months earlier he had undergone surgery on an Achilles tendon and was on crutches for six weeks. But runner-up will not do him this time. "I won an

TIMETABLE

All times BST

TODAY, 06.00: Decathlon, 100m
06.10: Women's discus qualifying round group A, 06.30: Women's 400m hurdles first round, 07.00: Decathlon long jump, 07.15: 110m hurdles, first round, 07.40: Women's discus qualifying round group B, 08.00: Decathlon shot, 18.45: Decathlon high jump, 19.00: Men's 800m second round, 19.30: Women's shot qualifying round two groups, 19.40: Men's javelin final, 19.45: 110m hurdles second round, 19.50: Men's long jump final, 19.55: Women's 1,500m final, 19.55: Women's 10,000m final, 19.55: Decathlon 400m, 19.55: Men's 400m final

Olympic silver medal from nothing, no training," Backley said.

He steps in the arena here having enjoyed his best year's training since 1991 and he would be hugely disappointed to finish second again.

Jan Zelezny is a competitor who has stood as tall among javelin throwers as Michael Johnson has among 400 metres runners in recent years, without having fallen this season. Zelezny, from the Czech Republic, is the world and Olympic champion, and possesses a world record which, for now at least, appears out of the reach of other throwers.

"Had it not been for Jan, I would have cleaned up," Backley said. He was not only second to Zelezny in Atlanta but at the world championships, in Gothenburg, in 1995. The margin at the Olympics was only 72 centimetres.

It was the difference between recognition and another one of those occasions when Backley is applauded for a day then forgotten.

Though he would be wrong to admit it, even to think it, Backley must expect Zelezny



Backley is a picture of concentration as he throws to qualify for the final of the men's javelin event in Athens

to win again here. However, the Briton is probably the best placed to take advantage should his rhythm desert him. It is hard to see beyond Zelezny. Backley, Kostas Gatsioudis and Boris Henry for the gold medal. Henry, from Germany, is always a lively competitor, and Gatsioudis is the host nation's best hope for a gold medal during the nine days of these championships. Backley, though, thinks that the presence of Gatsioudis may work in his favour.

The last occasion that Backley defeated Zelezny was when an international gold medal at stake was at the 1994 European championships in

Helsinki. Finland is the spiritual home of javelin throwers and no event generated a greater atmosphere among spectators.

Backley is hoping that enthusiastic support for the home man may prove too much for Zelezny. "I am pleased there is a Greek thrower involved," Backley said. "It will be similar to Helsinki — a packed stadium screaming and shouting. I do not think Jan likes that."

Zelezny, whose world record is 98.48 metres, threw 88.16 to win the Olympics. "I think it is going to take the distance that won last year just to get a medal here," Backley said. Gatsioudis and Zelezny

looked more comfortable than Backley in the qualifying round, but there was little to choose between the distances that they achieved.

Gunnell makes her entrance at these championships today, in the first round of the 400 metres hurdles, knowing that it will, more than likely, be her last appearance in a global championships. For Gunnell, who won the world title in 1993 with a world record, retirement beckons at the end of this or next season.

No longer is Gunnell able to live with the best and when, in all probability, Deon Hemmings, from Jamaica, and Tonja Buford-Bailey and Kim Batten, two Americans,

lead the chase for medals in the final on Friday, Gunnell will be pleased if she is part of the final. Such has been her form of late, and her ill-fortune with injury in recent seasons, that, to reach that stage would be a triumph.

Colin Jackson set a world record when winning the world title in 1993, at the same time as the British 400 metres champion, but he was not in the final. Jackson says Tony Jarrett, who has finished second in each of the last two world championships, is attempting to give Britain a medal in the 110 metres hurdles that begin today. Neither has been in his best form this season.

O'Sullivan seeking reversal of fortune

By DAVID POWELL

SONIA O'SULLIVAN will today attempt to mark the end of the worst 12 months of her competitive career when she appears in the final of the women's 1,500 metres. However, Ireland's children may be digging out their medals, in case of disappointment.

After O'Sullivan returned home from the Atlanta Olympic Games last year, having attempted two events and reached the final in neither, she was surprised to receive medals through the post from children who, giving theirs to her, expressed sympathy in a way that touched her. Having won the European 3,000 metres title in 1994, a year in which she set a world 2,000 metres record and European 3,000 metres record, and won the gold medal for the 5,000

metres in the world championship in 1995, she arrived in Atlanta as one of the hottest of favourites.

O'Sullivan, though, soon found herself struggling in her 5,000 metres heat at a pace that should have represented a jog for her. She dropped out, came back for an attempt at the 1,500 metres and failed to reach the final in that event as well. Medical tests appeared to indicate a virus.

Attempting to salvage a treasure from the wreckage, O'Sullivan went to the International Amateur Athletic Federation grand prix final in Milan in September, but failed to finish the 5,000 metres. After rest, followed by a good winter's training, she went to the world cross-country championships in Turin in March, believing that she could win. She finished ninth,

A new track season arrived and, with it, a chance to start again, but still the old form was missing. She finished fourth in the Paris grand prix, and eleventh in the British grand prix in Sheffield in June. That was her last race before coming here. She withdrew from grand prix races in Oslo and Nice, concerned at her form.

Given these difficulties, O'Sullivan will no doubt carry uncertainties in her head as she goes to the start today, but the absence of Kelly Holmes, the Briton who is fastest 1,500 metres runner in the world this year, and of Svetlana Masterkova, Russia's double Olympic champion, has eased the route to a medal.

Such is the lack of an obvious favourite, O'Sullivan must be hopeful. Though it is difficult to forecast, Kuteva

Dulecha, from Ethiopia, seems certain to be a strong contender within a year of winning the world junior title.

In the men's 800 metres yesterday, only Andy Hart, of Britain's three representatives, survived the first round. Robert Hough, Britain's European Cup champion, was eliminated in the semi-finals of the 3,000 metres steeplechase.

In the 1,500 metres semi-finals, John Mayock progressed to the final, but the field on Wednesday is stacked against him. Hicham El Guerrouj, from Morocco, and Noureddine Morceli, from Algeria, are likely to be the main protagonists. El Guerrouj appears ready to make amends for his fall in the Olympic final, an incident that gave Morceli a trouble-free route to the gold.

Nebiolo lays blame on Athens organisers

PRIMO NEBIOLO, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), has blamed poor organisation by officials in Athens for the lack of spectators at the 100 metres final at the world championships on Sunday night.

The Olympic Stadium was half-empty for the blue-ribbon event of athletics, won by Maurice Greene, despite the fact that the Greek organisers had said beforehand that the event was sold out.

"It was very disappointing," Nebiolo said yesterday. "The organisers did not do a great promotional job before the championships. They did not understand."

marks upset the host nation, particularly as Athens is attempting to win the right to stage the Olympic Games in 2004. Evangelos Savvatis, president of the organising committee, put the blame on Nebiolo, saying that he had refused to allow them to put the event back a month despite it falling in the middle of the traditional Greek holiday period.

Savvatis was also unimpressed by suggestions from the IAAF president that the stadium could have been filled by giving out free tickets to members of the armed forces. "Our soldiers are not there to fill stadiums but to assure the defence of the country," he said.

A tale of European boars

Wildlife on One: Wild Boar
BBC1, 8.00pm

Once they dominated the forests of Britain but wild boar have been extinct in this country for 300 years. So to show what we have been missing the cameras have to go to mainland Europe, and particularly Russia and Poland, where the species still thrives. The film follows the annual rituals of mating and breeding, set against the changing seasons. In the sub-zero temperatures of winter the boar lives off its reserves of fat and whatever boars can find. In early March the sow spends hours building a nest into which she burrows before giving birth. In a couple of months the piglets are big enough to travel by themselves. By the autumn the male boar starts looking for a mate and the cycle resumes. The camerawork is, as expected, well up to standard.

Space Cadets
Channel 4, 6.00pm

The science fiction quiz continues to provide undemanding fun, with the contestants doing their best to contrive spontaneous witticisms and sometimes succeeding. As with most television quizzes these days it is more important to raise laughs than to know the answer. In any case, wrong answers are often funnier than the real ones. The Ferengi Brothers from *Deep Space Nine*, in the guise of the actors Armin Shimerman and Max Grodchick, are the guest panellists this week, along with the comedians Trevor Nee and Simon Hickson. The show's reliance on formats from other quizzes, notably *A Question of Sport*, *Have I Got News For You* and *Call My Bluff*, is partly offset by the dottiness of the film clips which the teams are asked to identify. In the creation of movie trash sci-fi has much to answer for.

True Stories: Death Train
Channel 4, 9.00pm

A dark episode from Stalin's rule of the Soviet Union underlines that regime's total contempt for the value of human life. At the end of the Second World War Stalin decided on a grandiose new project to build a railway line across the Arctic Circle. It was ostensibly to defend the Soviet Union's northern borders. Some detected a more sinister



A wild boar protects her young (BBC1)

purpose, to link all the golan camps in the north. Certainly the camps provided the labour, and this was mercilessly exploited in dreadful conditions. Survivors recall their experiences in cold, appalling detail. One recalls men being so badly fed that they licked the grease from machinery thinking it was butter. Conservative estimates say that 60,000 died. The death and suffering was all in vain. Given the terrain the project was never viable and with Stalin's death it was abandoned.

Crimestwatch UK
BBC1, 9.30pm

If there is more self-congratulation than usual in tonight's programme, that is because *Crimestwatch* has been so successful it has been in wants to tell us how successful it has been in helping to bring villains to book. The show is hardly, as the presenter Nick Ross claims, more successful than Sherlock Holmes. He solved all his crimes and did not have television to call on. But *Crimestwatch* appeals have led to more than 500 arrests, of which 40 have been for murder. Three of the successful interventions are recalled tonight. One resulted in the capture of a paedophile, another to the arrest of a man who had threatened to firebomb a supermarket. The third case concerned a bogus policeman who conned elderly people out of their pension money. The Metropolitan programme offers advice from the Metropolitan Police to those who may find themselves similarly targeted.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Best Footlights Forward
Radio 2, 9.30pm

Presenter Graeme Garden, rattling off the list of famous names which rounds off the history of Cambridge University Footlights Society, should be a likely choice to commit the whole of the London telephone directory to tape if ever such an undertaking were contemplated. Yet, seemingly endless though Garden's catalogue is, it only scratches the surface in reminding us of the undergraduate writers, directors, and actors for whom the Footlights Revue has been the launch pad for a distinguished career. Garden is a former president of the Footlights Society, so he wears two hats tonight — Garden the man who once held the Footlights reins and Garden whose voice has made me chortle through many a radio comedy.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Mark Goodier 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, Live from Camden 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Jo Wiley 2.00pm Moby Campbell 4.00 Kevin Gunning 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Earth, Air, Fire and Water 9.30 Everyman 10.00 Business 10.15 The Orchestra 10.30 Literature File 10.45 Sport 11.30 On Screen 12.30pm Radio 1 People Partioned 1.00 News in German 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Health Matters 2.00 Newsweek 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Sport 4.15 Earth, Air, Fire and Water 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 6.00 News 6.15 The World This Week 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30pm 97.825 Pause for Thought 8.30 Megamix 9.00 Newsweek 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Multitrack Live 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport 12.00 Outlook 12.30 Megamix 1.30 The Farming World 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Discovery 3.30 Meridian Live 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe

RADIO 2

8.00am Sarah Kuhn 7.50 Wake Up To Wogan 9.30 Jeff Braz 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.00pm Angela Ripston 3.00 Ed Stewart 6.00 John Dunn 7.00 Carl Davis Classics 8.00 Night Out 8.30 News 9.00 News at Ten 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News 10.30 Richard Atkinson 12.05pm Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday News 2.00 Russia on Fire 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide in Athens 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Any Sporting Questions? Live from Highbury 8.00 Sports Centre 8.30 News 9.00 News at Ten 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News 10.30 Richard Atkinson 12.05pm Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorna Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anne Robinson 10.00 James White 1.00am Mike Dolan

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newshour 6.30 Europe 7.15 World Athletic Championships 7.30 India: A People Partioned 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 What's News 8.45 The Lab 9.00 News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Earth, Air, Fire and Water 9.30 Everyman 10.00 Business 10.15 The Orchestra 10.30 Literature File 10.45 Sport 11.30 On Screen 12.30pm Radio 1 People Partioned 1.00 News in German 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Health Matters 2.00 Newsweek 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Sport 4.15 Earth, Air, Fire and Water 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 6.00 News 6.15 The World This Week 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30pm 97.825 Pause for Thought 8.30 Megamix 9.00 Newsweek 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Multitrack Live 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport 12.00 Outlook 12.30 Megamix 1.30 The Farming World 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Discovery 3.30 Meridian Live 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Sally Paterson 6.00 Alan Martin 9.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Listeners' Requests 2.00pm Concerto 3.00pm James Crichton 7.00pm Newsweek 8.00pm Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 9.00pm Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 10.00pm Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 11.00pm Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 12.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 1.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 2.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 3.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 4.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 5.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 6.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 7.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 8.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 9.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 10.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 11.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 12.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 1.00am Bolshoi (Bolshoi for Peace and Harmony) 2.00am 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Not consonant with widening his audience

Like me, you probably switched on your telly to watch BBC2's latest *Saturday Night Takeaway*. Dance, offering, called CRWDSPCR, and were joined to discover that it wasn't, after all, about folk dancing in one of those disreputable Welsh villages like Bwlch or Cwmffwrdd, but about the making of a new dance style. The New York-based choreographer, Merce Cunningham, is pronounced "crowd spacer", since you ask. This vowel variation was the only really jarring note in Effort Caplan's film. It reminded you of those vowel-free job adverts you used to see in London. Underground trains: "If it can't fit in a d d b m a cmpr prgrmr n d g a d b."

You can't help wondering if Merce is going the right way about dancing, or modern dance about aesthetics, whose basic critical attitude to contemporary dance can be summed up in the phrase "I may not understand it, but I sure as hell know I couldn't get my body into that position." Even for those who have always quite liked modern dance but never felt they had fully grasped the vocabulary, it is disconcerting to discover that when transcribed in a more familiar alphabet it is spelled CRWDSPCR. It is the sort of thing that makes you give up in despair, having decided that the whole thing may be pretentious RBBBSH. Cunningham seemed to be doing much of his choreographing on a computer, pressing buttons sent multicoloured dancers gyrating and bounding around the computer screen, like a rather balletic version of Donkey Kong. Caplan also captured the way Mark Lancaster's jockey-inspired costume designs and John King's steel slide guitar score were interwoven into Cunningham's dance movements to create... well, I'm not exactly sure, since we mostly

saw the making of CRWDSPCR rather than CRWDSPCR itself. I think we did, anyway. You can't always tell with modern dance. It could be that watching Cunningham eating hummus and pita bread in the corner of his huge sun-washed studio was part of the performance.

To amateurs, watching men and women making startling patterns with their bodies is pretty much like over-hearing Italians gabbling away at the next table in a café in Rome: it all sounds pretty enough, even if you might not be able to understand every word of the conversation. You wouldn't be able to hear much of the conversation, anyway, above the clang of King's score, which sounds like a rather tense rumble when you hear it in the isolation of his recording studio. But when you hear it as a

backdrop to Cunningham's dance movements you realise that it really is a tuneless rumble. The programme had a bit of extra spice in that one of the dancers in Cunningham's company was called Michael Cole. I kept an eye out to see if it was the same Michael Cole who was once the BBC's royal correspondent and is now chief spokesman for the Harrods boss Mohamed Al Fayed. I couldn't spot him for sure, but he would have the legs for it.

There was a keen attempt to keep Welshness out of Tiger Bay as well. Or TGR BY as Merce Cunningham might put it. But after three episodes, BBC1's newest soap still seems too slippery to get hold of. There are certainly no sheep, no miners, no much noise, but there isn't much suspense, either. Instead there is screaming, plenty of shouting and some lip-synching. Last night Betty got buried, but not before 16-year-old Jodie — who wears alarming multicoloured nail varnish on nails so long they would make a mole envious — slid into bed with 40-year-old Roy. Again. Roy is a man who plays sex scenes with the dullest pulled right under his neck, giving the impression that he didn't have time to undress when he was called to the set. Or perhaps his mum always comes to tuck her boy up, even when he's

making whoopee with a schoolgirl. The publicity that preceded this series boasted: "It will be the first time since Hayley Mills's appearance in the 1958 film *Tiger Bay* that Cardiff has truly starred in a major way." Maybe there was a reason. It's just a theory.

Watching *All Mod Cons*: Just Switch On (BBC2) it was hard to decide which had changed more since the 1950s — the world of housework following the arrival of time-saving electrical appliances such as washing machines, or the world of television advertising, which was then still peopled by women who delivered their lines as if they were taking their final elocution exam at Lucie Clayton's finishing school. "Your sawspins stay clean, your kitchen stays clean and the err you breathe stays fresh," said the posh lady selling the virtues of cooking with electricity. And wasn't that

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

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- BBC1**
- 8.00am Business Breakfast (5747)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (55983)
- 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (1) (55983)
- 9.20am Ready, Steady, Cook! (1) (55983)
- 9.50am Eastern Horizons (1) (1) (55983)
- 10.20am The Roadshow Collection (1) (55983)
- 10.45am Caron Cooper's Cooking with Confidence (1) (55983)
- 11.00am News (1) (55983)
- 11.05am Due South (1) (55983)
- 11.50am Good Neighbours (502023)
- 12.00am News (1) (55983)
- 12.05pm Westwood (1) (55983)
- 12.35pm Neighbours (1) (55983)
- 1.00pm News (1) (55983)
- 1.30pm Regional News (55983)
- 1.40pm Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) (55983)
- 3.10pm Quake (1) (55983)
- 3.55pm Wild World: a Visit to Russell's Caves (55983)
- 4.00pm Popeye (55983)
- 4.30pm News (1) (55983)
- 5.30pm Neighbours (1) (55983)
- 6.00pm News (1) (55983)
- 6.30pm Regional News (55983)
- 7.30pm EastEnders: Sarah fails to reach a compromise with Ted (1) (55983)
- 8.00pm Wildlife on One: David Attenborough presents the world of the wild (1) (55983)
- 8.30pm Keeping Up Appearances: Rachel volunteers to clean the local church. With Patricia Routledge (1) (55983)
- 9.00pm News (1) (55983)
- 9.30pm CrimeWatch UK: Special edition combining appeals for help in cracking unsolved cases with a look back at how criminals were brought to book (1) (55983)
- 10.15pm The X-Files: David "Kalm" Mulder and Scotty get stranded aboard a Naval destroyer in Norway while investigating why its crew have died of premature ageing (1) (55983)
- 11.00pm You Don't Know Jack: Invites a studio audience to debate a topical issue (55983)
- 11.55pm Fathom: (1967) Tongue-in-cheek espionage romp starring Raquel Welch as a glamorous sky-diving spy assigned to retrieve a bomb-triggering device lost in the Mediterranean. Directed by Leslie H. Martinson (55983)
- 12.00pm The X-Files: 2.15 News headlines and weather (1) (55983)
- 1.30am Weather (55983)
- VideoPlus+** and the Video PlusCodes
- The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (+), PlusCode (+) and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 8.00am O U Fontainebleau: The Changing Image of Kingship (214598)
- 9.25am World Championship Athletics: Early action includes Sally Gunnell in the 400m hurdles and the opening events in the decathlon. Plus, live coverage of the first round of the men's 110m hurdles featuring both Tony Jarrett and Colin Jackson (797021)
- 8.00pm Noddy (1) (55983)
- 8.30pm News (1) (55983)
- 8.50pm The Pines (1) (55983)
- 9.10pm The Pines (1) (55983)
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Merricks keeps in hunt at Admiral's Cup

SPORT

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Carson getting a kick out of new role



TUESDAY AUGUST 5 1997

Hansen narrowly fails in her attempt to win a medal at world championships

Brave Lewis discovers silver lining

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATHENS

DENISE LEWIS, seeking to become the first British woman since Mary Peters 25 years ago to win a world multi-events title, had to settle for the silver medal at the world championships here yesterday. Sabine Braun, a German finding her best form for three years, was a deserving winner of the heptathlon title.

Having trailed by some distance after two events on the first day, Lewis closed the gap gradually over the next four disciplines but, coming to the last event, the 800 metres, she still had a huge task on her hands. Lewis, trailing by 82 points, needed to finish six seconds ahead of Braun but, at the same time, could not afford to go for broke in case she tied up on the second lap and threw away her silver medal.

Braun, as one would expect, chose to shadow Lewis around the track. Then, down the finishing straight, in the last 25 metres, Braun came past and Lewis knew her chance was gone. The Briton could reflect, however, on a job well done and her country's first medal of these championships.

The consistency of the performances of both women was a credit to them and Lewis, with 6,654 points, was within 100 points of her British and Commonwealth record. Braun took the gold with a score of 6,739. The bronze medal went to Remigia Nazarovienė, of Lithuania, with 6,566.

The last time that Britain had a multi-events sports-woman contesting gold at this level was in 1972. Peters, like Lewis, had a German athlete as her main opponent, Heide Rosendahl. Both broke the world record for the pentathlon — the javelin and 800 metres were added between the 1980 Olympics and the first world championships in 1983 — and Peters won by only ten points, the equivalent of 0.10sec.

Braun was the 1991 world champion and claimed her second European title in 1994. Family tragedy threw her out of her sporting stride, though. After the death of her mother through cancer ten years ago, her sister suffered the same fate in March. For three years,

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Results 41

during her sister's illness, Braun could not bring herself to concentrate on training.

After completing the first day in fourth place, Lewis came to the second knowing that she needed to be at her best in the long jump. Although she jumped further than Braun, a clearance of 6.47 metres was insufficient. She needed to be somewhere near her personal best of 6.77 metres.

In the javelin, Lewis again



Hansen: back injury

scored more heavily than Braun, although a throw of around 56 metres was required to give her a fighting chance in the 800 metres. She threw 52.70 metres, while Braun recorded 51.48. While any criticism of Lewis would be harsh, she will reflect on the first event, the 100 metres hurdles, and the long jump, as the disciplines that made the difference.

Asia Hansen's attempt to improve on her fourth place in the triple jump at the Atlanta Olympic Games last year proved unsuccessful. Perhaps the back injury that had inhibited her final preparations had been more of an inconvenience than she had been letting on, but she was half a metre down on the form that she had been looking for.

Hansen's last-round jump was her best, 14.49 metres, but she was 28 centimetres behind Yelena Govorova, from Ukraine, who took the bronze medal. Sarka Kasparkova, from the Czech Republic, who won the bronze medal at the world indoor championships in Paris in March, while Hansen left with the silver, won the gold here with 15.20 metres. Rodica Mateescu, from Romania, took the silver medal, four centimetres behind.

Kasparkova is a former high jumper who was sixth at that event in the 1988 world junior championships but, having failed to progress beyond the qualifying competition of the 1992 Olympic Games, she switched to the triple jump. If the triple jump had not held much appeal among women athletes prior to that, it was beginning to attract new devotees because, from 1993, it would be accepted as a world championship event.

From the first round last night, the task looked an uphill one for Hansen. With her opening effort, Mateescu jumped 15.16 metres — 22 centimetres further than Hansen's British and Commonwealth record, which she set earlier in the season. Mateescu, despite appearances in world, Olympic and European championships, had never won a medal, but now she was in the form of her life. She maintained her lead until the fifth round and must have begun to think that victory would be hers.

However, Kasparkova, with her best jump of the competition standing at 15.01 metres, made a dramatic improvement to 15.20 metres. Hansen, after five rounds, was fifth, needed to find an extra 27 centimetres at least if she was to snatch a medal. She found only eight.

Mateescu, 26, had no international form to her name until 1994, when she finished fifth in the European championships in Helsinki. In her first world championships, in Gothenburg in 1995, she was fifth, but slipped back to seventh at the Atlanta Olympic Games.



Lewis leapt to victory in the long jump event yesterday but could not accumulate enough points to earn her the gold medal in the heptathlon

Historic trio will run for their lives

ROB HUGHES



In Athens

ONE complete lap makes perfect symmetry to the British athletes in Athens: any less, and they are burned off by the power sprinting of a resurgent United States, any more and they are drawn to submissive weariness in 30C.

But tonight, in the final of the 400 metres men's world championship, the three British entries, Jamie Baulch, Mark Richardson and Iwan Thomas, will run for their lives. It is the first time in history that a British trio has reached the final of a 400 metres global event.

There is a catch. There happens to be four Americans in the same final, and evidence from the semi-finals yesterday was that there is nothing physically wrong with Michael Johnson. At his arrogant ease, he finished almost walking over the line in a time of 44.37sec, which for him is average, but for other men may prove unattainable.

How strange to record that when Roger Black, the captain of the Great Britain team, been afforded the same privilege as Johnson, a wild-card entry, Britain could conceivably be looking at a finale against the United States this evening. That would be less than fair to Davis Kamoga, of Uganda, the Olympic bronze medal-winner, who ran quicker than each of the Britons.

But dream on, share with Richardson the exclamation that the semi-final runs were "superb stuff". Richardson, a Loughborough sports science graduate, a worldly and laid-back fellow, pronounced himself satisfied with a job well

done. Running in the first of the semi-finals, Richardson, and also Baulch, proved masters of the art of peaking for their season. Both finished behind the Tyree Washington, of the United States, but Richardson in second place and Baulch in third each recorded the best times of their seasons.

They are different personalities. Baulch being excitable and outgoing, like the trampolinist he was as a schoolboy. They ran in different styles. Richardson slowly off the blocks but cruising into contention with smooth and impressive power, and Baulch quickly away, almost as quickly as Washington, and seemingly within himself at the finish. "I didn't really go for it in the first 200 metres," Baulch told his mentor, Linford Christie. "I just strode it. I was telling myself you're the man!" At least he sounded

like a convert to the Yankee cause.

In the second heat, Thomas, who many believe is Britain's best prospect even though he too has a slight knee strain, appeared to judge his fourth place as it suited him, not this time running his best of the year, but in a time of 44.61 quite sufficient to attack the final.

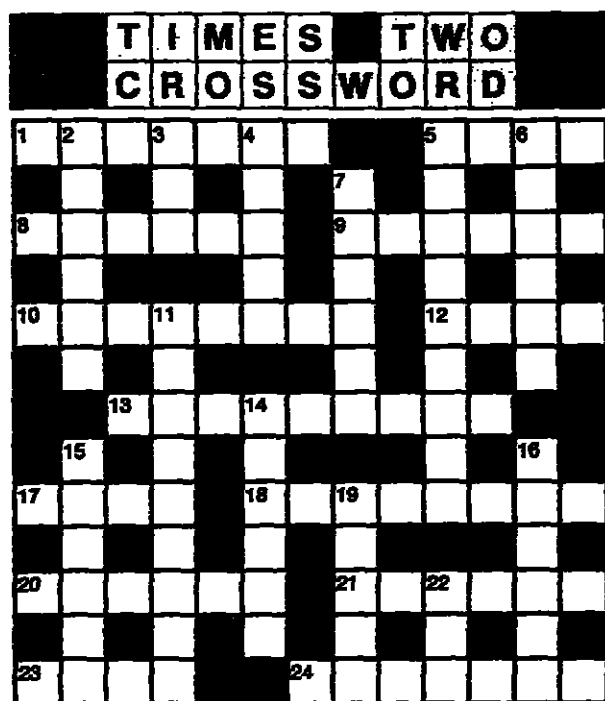
Of the three, Thomas has the most to learn, and with his 6ft 2in build and his almost naive belief that world games are there to be run, he may carry the flag for the nation tonight. His job, like the other two, is to help us forget the controversy surrounding Black, the demoted Olympic silver medal-winner, and to believe that Johnson, like all humans, is fallible.

Yesterday, it scarcely looked so; he appeared his only competitor, struggling to hold back the aggression that gave him 58 successive 400 metres triumphs before he foolishly became involved in the \$1 million head-to-head with Donovan Bailey in Toronto in June. Johnson was injured then, damaging a quadriceps muscle, but he said yesterday, after the kindly Primo Nebiolo had changed the rules to allow a non-qualified former champion into this arena: "I don't know what shape I'll be in for the final, but I have no problems, and there were none in the heat all that happened was that I made a mistake." That mistake, easing up and misjudging the run of others almost, but alas for the British not quite, cost him a place in the semis.

So, we await with barely disguised anticipation, the crowning of the king of the track. We already know the new queen. For yesterday, immediately after the men, Cathy Freeman, that delightful Australian Aborigine, captivated the audience and claimed the women's 400 metres as if it were her birthright. The time, 49.77sec, may not have approached the 47.60sec of Maria Koch or the 47.99sec of Jarmila Kratochvílová, but they were women of East European systems. Cathy Freeman is a woman exercising freedom of her own special variety.

After the victory, she curtseyed impishly to the crowd, a crowd still only half filling this Olympic bowl. Perhaps, given that two million people have allegedly plugged into the IAAF Athens website, they are living in darkened rooms rather than coming into the bright sunlight.

Never mind, Freeman came home and, as she did in 1994 when capturing the Commonwealth title, she took the black and yellow Aboriginal flag in one hand, the Australian ensign in the other, and paraded with a joy that said: "I'm an athlete of my time, of my people, enjoy me."



No 1164

- ACROSS
- 1 Rapture: a drug (7)
 - 5 Charity fair: sounds like doom (4)
 - 8 Easy catch: artist's model (6)
 - 9 Tout de suite (2-4)
 - 10 Natural tendency (8)
 - 12 Warm (wine); Sc. island (4)
 - 13 (Careful) farming (9)
 - 17 Footway (4)
 - 18 (Esp. blue) gem (8)
 - 20 Comedian's straight man (6)
 - 21 Red salad fruit (6)
 - 23 Small bird: architect (7)
 - 24 Water-point in street (7)
- DOWN
- 2 Professional's customer (6)
 - 3 Little child, drink (3)
 - 4 Warning signal: vamp (5)
 - 5 Carry (one) forcibly (9)
 - 6 Light touch: strike as amusing (6)
 - 7 Sir William, Isaac — (6)
 - 11 Ground (plane, rugby ball) (5-4)
 - 14 8-gall. measure: light hidden under it? (6)
 - 15 Raindrop noise; splat (6)
 - 16 Charged nuclear particle (6)
 - 19 Glass-fixing cement (5)
 - 22 Spoil (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1163
ACROSS: 7 Bone 8 Rasputin 9 Meringue 10 Toll
11 Nausea 13 Thrift 15 Vessel 17 Suborn 19 Drum
21 Siberian 23 Venomous 24 Flak
DOWN: 1 Moderate 2 Genius 3 Crag 4 Asbestos
5 Punter 6 Pill 12 Allusion 14 Fire away 16 Samson
18 Bereft 20 Reel 22 Bunk

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